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DRUG COURT

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, center, recently spoke to Northern Marianas College students about the new CNMI Drug Court and how it is working to battle drugs here in the CNMI. The presentation was also attended by Georgia Cabrera from the Department of Corrections.

NMC

Ocean swimmer found dead on Rota

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Ocean swimmer Monte Monfore was found dead Tuesday afternoon on Pinatang Beach in Songsong, Rota, in what appears to be a head injury sustained in the waters off the beach.



Monfore

Dr. Gregory Kotheimer, a physician at the Commonwealth Health Center, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* last night that he declared Monfore dead on arrival at the Rota Health Center.

Kotheimer, who said he does not know the cause of Monfore's death, stated that there is an ongoing police in-

See OCEAN on Page 4

Zoning: Applications for new hotels up

By **BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

The number of applications for hotel projects has been going up in the last five months, such that zoning applications to accommodate hotel projects are always in-

cluded on the Zoning board's agenda.

Two applications to set up a guesthouse in Sadog Tasi and a bed-and-breakfast in Chinatown are on the calendar for today's Zoning public hearing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall

in Susupe at 5pm.

Zoning board vice chair Bruce Bateman attributed this increase to the entry of casino developer Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

"Applications have vastly increased," Bateman said. **See ZONING on Page 4**

USPS lobby closed at night due to vandalism

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

A recent incident of vandalism at the U.S. Postal Service in Chalan Kanoa has prompted the post office to close its lobby at night.

According to Duke Gonzales, the corporate com-

munications specialist of the USPS in Honolulu Hawaii, the post office lobby now closes at 9pm daily.

"Customers can access the lobby of the Saipan post office from 6am to 9pm, 15 hours a day," said Gonzales.

The USPS post office in **See USPS on Page 4**

Senators blister Trump, reveal GOP at war with itself

By **ERICA WERNER**
AP CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP)—A pair of senators from President Donald Trump's own Republican Party blistered him with criticism Tuesday in a dramatic day of denunciation that laid bare a GOP at war with itself. Jeff Flake of Arizona declared he would not be "complicit" with Trump and announced his sur-

prise retirement, while Bob Corker of Tennessee declared the president "debases our nation" with constant untruths

and name-calling.

Corker, too, is retiring at the end of his term, and the White House shed no tears at the prospect of the two GOP senators' departures. A former adviser to Steve Bannon, Trump's ex-strategic adviser, called it all "a monumental victory for the Trump movement," and Trump himself boasted to staff members that he'd played a role in forcing the senators out.



Flake



Corker

RELATED NEWS

■ **Flake's bow-out could mean rush of AZ GOP candidates. PAGE 16**

It was a stunning rebuke of a sitting president from prominent members of his own party—and added to a chorus of criticism of Trump that has been growing louder and more public. Flake challenged his fellow senators to follow his lead, but there were few immediate signs they would.

See SENATORS on Page 4

INSIDE



ASIA

The late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand will be laid to rest in a five-day funeral.

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FOCUS

President Xi Jinping is returning as head of the Politburo Standing Committee.

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LIFE & STYLE

A former Weinstein Co. assistant has come forward with fresh allegations.

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PAC MEETING

PSS

The CNMI State Parent Advisory Council, the governing body for all of the public schools' PTSA organizations, held a meeting yesterday at the Marianas High School library. The meeting was attended by Education Commissioner Cynthia I. DeLeon Guerrero, fifth from left. Others at the meeting were Christine Cabrera, Mariano Fajardo, Angie Hocog, John Gonzales, Anthony Tomokane, Vinnie Sablan, Troy Palacios, Rodney Cabarles, Lee Cabrera, Catalina Benedicto, Melanie Sablan, and associate commissioner Yvonne Pangelinan. Not in photo are Arley Long and Joji Pamintuan.

Local

IAO leery about BOE certification pitch for CNMI bilingual teachers

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Board of Education has proposed an alternate set of prerequisites for bilingual teachers, but the Indigenous Affairs Office believes the compromise is still not enough to fill the shortage of bilingual instructors in the Commonwealth.

In a news briefing on Tuesday, IAO program manager Crispin Ogo said the BOE proposal is good but is still unattainable for many potential instructors in the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian languages.

The compromise for a basic indigenous language instructor no longer requires an applicant to pass any Praxis exams, but they must meet three sets of prerequisites.

The first set requires an applicant to have at least three college credits, a high school diploma, and at least two years of work experience.

If an applicant does not meet the first set of requirements, the second set requires a high school diploma, a certification from the BOE-appointed advisory panel, and at least three years related experience.

If the first two sets of requirements are not met by the applicant, he or she needs a high school diploma, a certification from the advisory panel, and a professional portfolio in Chamorro or Carolinian content.

According to Ogo, the IAO believes that these prerequisites are still unattainable for many Chamorros or Carolinians who want to teach the language.

Ogo said a lot of Chamorro and Carolinians who are proficient in these languages do not have college credits at all, have no teaching experience, or have no background in

professional cultural practices like singing, dancing, or crafts.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who supports the IAO stance, said it is important that the shortage of bilingual teachers be addressed for the sake of future generations.

A public hearing will be held for community members to submit their comments on the proposed alternative certification process. The next public hearing will be on Nov. 6 at the Dandan Elementary School cafeteria, from 5pm to 6pm.

The Tuesday news briefing was also attended by the Language Policy Commission and Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

Over a month ago, a disagreement sprung between BOE and the advocates of the alternate bilingual instructor certification process. Advocates included the principal executives of the Office of Indigenous Affairs, the Office of Carolinian Affairs, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the Language Policy Commission.

On Sept. 20, IAO resident executive Roman Tudela, CAO executive assistant John Tagabuel, and DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter signed a memorandum of agreement where they agreed that an alternative certification process should be put into play to address the shortage of bilingual instructors.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, BOE member Herman Guerrero is not keen on an alternate certification process, but is open to a discussion with the advocates.

On Sept. 28, the BOE met with IAO and came up with a proposal on Oct. 6 to establish a compromise between the BOE and the advocates on the alternate bilingual instructor certification.

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Judge: Weekly \$1M payments extend Fund's horizon

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government's weekly payments of \$1 million to the Settlement Fund allows the Fund to avoid depleting its investments, thereby extending the Fund's investment horizon, according to a federal judge.

Senate OKs 2 CUC board appointees

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Senate approved yesterday two nominees to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, representing Rota and Tinian.

Both Jovita SN Paulino and Miranda V. Mangloña were approved to occupy the CUC board as representatives of Tinian and Rota, respectively.

Both Paulino and Mangloña were recommended by their respective mayor's offices prior to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres nominating them to the board.

During Mangloña's public hearing last Tuesday, CUC executive director Gary Camacho expressed his support for Mangloña to represent Rota.

CUC Rota deputy director Charles Mangloña also expressed his support in a written testimony dated Oct. 20, 2017.

The letter said that CUC is "fortunate to have a candidate of [Miranda's] caliber and dedication," adding that Miranda cares "deeply about the quality of utility services for all people in the CNMI."

"I am excited and looking forward to doing what I need to do," said Paulino, adding that her view of CUC changed after she toured the CUC office in Dandan last Tuesday.

"I am looking forward to working with [Camacho]," said Paulino.

Mangloña, on the other hand, plans to restore the trust of CUC customers through transparency.

"We need to have a reliable, sustainable, and affordable utilities corporation for

In an order on Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood also lauded Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Legislature for making the payments to the retirees a priority.

The judge, who got an update on the status of the Settlement Fund last Sept. 2 from

our community," said Mangloña, not only for Saipan but also on Tinian.

"I am ready to work with [Camacho], the [other] board of directors of CUC, and CUC staff and management," she said.

Mangloña has an administrative background with the Department of Public Safety before moving over to the Department of Labor and dealing with "personnel matters."

According to Mangloña, whenever the Labor chief was off-island, she would take over the department. "I know the process of managing an entire department and its personnel," she said.

Paulino also has background with "enforcement" but did not specify which. Paulino was involved with the Public School System from 1993 to 2008. "When I got back here, I...went into a new aspect of employment, which is working for the Tinian Mayor's Office, which is very challenging and very [enjoyable]," she said.

"I am looking forward to working with [Mangloña], the other board members, and the executive director," she said.

With the addition of Paulino and Mangloña, the CUC board is one step closer to completing its board. As of publication, the board consists of Commonwealth Development Authority representative Ignacio Perez, Saipan representatives Matthew Holly and Weston Deleon Guerrero, Rota representative Mangloña, and Tinian representative Paulino.

Navy training in the CNMI

Aircraft of the U.S. Navy's Carrier Air Wing 17 will conduct training near Saipan from Oct. 28 to Oct. 30, 2017.

During the exercise, F/A-18 fighter jets will operate within a radius of five nautical miles around the island of Saipan, including occasional island overflights.

Following the guidelines of the Federal Aviation Administration, pilots will maintain a minimum altitude of 15,000 feet.

The F/A-18 is the Navy's primary multirole combat jet. Widely regarded as the best class of fighter on the planet,

the F/A-18 is a twin-engine all-weather supersonic fighter and attack aircraft that can operate day or night.

CVW-17 consists of nine squadrons of various types of aircraft and is assigned to the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.

The USS *Theodore Roosevelt* is a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, the largest class of carrier in the world. Named after the 26th President of the United States, the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* is also known as "The Big Stick" and is one of 10 Nimitz-class carriers serving the U.S. Navy. (PR)

Settlement Fund trustee and principal representative Joyce C. H. Tang, expressed pleasure at the status of the Betty Johnson class action.

Not only have the retirees received the 75 percent payments guaranteed under the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action, but the CNMI government also continues to pay the retirees the 25 percent benefit payment and has approved a bonus payment of over \$1,000 for each retiree for fiscal year 2018, she said.

Tydingco-Gatewood expressed her gratitude to Tor-

res and the CNMI Legislature, "under the leadership of Senate President Arnold I. Palacios and House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, for their good governance."

The judge said the CNMI government has been "extremely cooperative" with Tang and has been diligent in making its payments.

She noted that the CNMI economy appears to have improved to a point where the CNMI government has been making regular payments of \$1 million per week to the Settlement Fund.

"The court appreciates the hard work of these leaders in serving the needs of the retirees while balancing competing interests of the entire community in a timely, appropriate, and responsive manner," Tydingco-Gatewood said.

Noting the close working relationship between Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and Settlement Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan, the judge said the two officials' weekly telephone conferences help ensure that the Settlement Fund receives enough funds to make biweekly payments to

Johnson's class members.

Tydingco-Gatewood also praised Tang and the lawyers of Johnson's class members—Margery Bronster and Robert Hatch—for adhering to their fiduciary duties and "their persistence and attention to this case."

She thanked Tang and her staff "for their hard work and diligence in ensuring that the class members receive the benefits due them."

"The court is hopeful that the parties can continue to work cooperatively with the trustee and one another to ensure that all obligations to the class are met," she said.

The judge tentatively set a status hearing in April 2018.

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Customs seize over \$10.8K from woman

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A woman who claimed to have only \$7,000 upon arriving at the Saipan airport from Guam in July was allegedly found with \$10,897 in all, including some bills that were wrapped inside sanitary napkins.

Customs inspectors at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport immediately seized the hoard.

Asserting that undeclared money is considered contraband, the Office of the Attorney General wants to forfeit the money.

According to complaint, Ju-

lin Li arrived on Saipan from Guam via United Flight 6391 last July 24 at 12:40pm.

When Li arrived at the Customs counter, she presented a Customs inspector with a Customs declaration in which she indicated she was carrying \$7,000.

Prompted by Li's reaction

and change in demeanor when asked how much cash she was carrying, a Customs inspector found in Li's purse two wallets, including one that contained a stash of \$100 bills.

The inspector asked Li again if she had more than \$10,000, but she allegedly insisted she had only \$7,000.

Another inspector told Li that money in excess of \$10,000 is subject to decla-

ration and if not declared is contraband and may be forfeited. Li allegedly stated for the third time that she had no \$10,000.

The inspector found \$100 bills stuffed in an outside pocket of the second wallet and that more bills were uncovered in another outside pocket, this time wrapped inside sanitary napkins, according to assistant attorney general Hessel E. Yntema IV.

Another pocket allegedly contained more \$100 bills.

The inspector also discovered more \$100 bills in Li's upper inner thigh.

Li allegedly later told an-

other inspector that she hid the money in her pants because she knew she was carrying more than \$10,000.

The total currency found amounted to \$10,897 and 2,000 Japanese yen.

Under Commonwealth law, it is unlawful for any person to bring "currency, coin, travelers checks, money orders, and/or negotiable instruments of a total of more than \$10,000 unless the amount is reported to the Division of Customs in a signed Customs declaration form prior to entry into the Commonwealth."

Yntema said Li did not declare the amount.

SENATORS

From Page 1

At midafternoon, as fellow lawmakers sat in attentive silence, Flake stood at his Senate desk and delivered an emotional speech in which he dissected what he considered his party's accommodations with Trump and said he could no longer play a role in them.

"We were not made great as a country by indulging in or even exalting our worst impulses, turning against ourselves, glorifying in the things that divide us and calling fake things true and true things fake," he said.

Hours earlier, Corker leveled his own searing criticism of Trump in a series of interviews.

"I think the debasement of our nation will be what he'll

be remembered most for and that's regretful," Corker said.

A furious Trump didn't let that pass unremarked. On Twitter, he called Corker "incompetent," said he "doesn't have a clue" and claimed the two-term lawmaker "couldn't get elected dog catcher in Tennessee."

An overstatement to be sure, but White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in regard to the impending retirements, "The people both in Tennessee and Arizona supported this president, and I don't think that the numbers are in the favor of either of those two senators in their states and so I think this was probably the right decision."

Away from the cameras, Trump took credit for helping force the two departures, according to a White House official and an outside adviser,

who insisted on anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Until Tuesday, Flake had insisted he had no plans to retire. He was raising money at a good rate and casting his re-election campaign as a test case of conservatism against Trumpism. But he made clear Tuesday he'd concluded that, for now at least, Trumpism had prevailed.

"It is clear at this moment that a traditional conservative who believes in limited government and free markets, who is devoted to free trade, who is pro-immigration, has a narrower and narrower path to nomination in the Republican Party," he said.

Corker's retirement plans also underscore the question of what the Republican Party will look like in years to come. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has warned that some candidates

running with the backing of Trump allies could not win general elections. And even if they make it to the Senate, certain conservatives could make McConnell's job even harder as he tries to maneuver legislation through a narrow majority that now stands at 52-48.

Steven Law, head of a McConnell-allied super PAC that supports GOP incumbents and establishment-aligned candidates, wasted no time issuing a statement declaring that Republican former state Sen. Kelli Ward, who was running against Flake with the encouragement of former Trump adviser Steve Bannon, "will not be the Republican nominee for this Senate seat in 2018." Many fellow Republicans had expected Flake to lose the primary and hope they will now be able to recruit a stronger candidate.

USPS

From Page 1

Chalan Kanoa, which has been renamed the Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office, is one of the busiest postal service branches on Saipan.

A culprit who has yet to be identified vandalized the post office lobby in late September, prompting the post office to act on the issue quickly for the safety of those who use the post office in Chalan Kanoa. The USPS lobby used to be open 24 hours.

In an online interview, Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune* that the vandalism incident was "quite severe."

"Postal property was damaged and destroyed in that incident. A local historical display was also severely damaged," said Gonzales.

In a visit to the post office yesterday, the office had been cleared of any signs of vandalism.

Saipan Tribune was able to speak with a homeless individual who requested to remain anonymous. According to the individual, he has been living in the abandoned building across the post office for many years, along with a few of his "roommates."

He, along with his "roommates," frequently loiter around the post office, asking for help from those who visit the facility.

Upon learning about the

vandalism that resulted in the lobby's new closing hours, he expressed sadness and regret that he did not notice the vandals. "I am really sorry [about that]. I only come here asking for help," the man said.

According to Gonzales, they have had to respond to complaints about the loiterers, but that was not the reason behind the change of accessible lobby hours.

"We have previously had to respond to concerns about loiterers, but none of those concerns were as serious as the recent vandalism," said Gonzales.

Fortunately, the new lobby hours are still subject to possible change. "We are actively assessing the impact of

this change and considering our options. Adjustments to this change are always possible," he said.

According to Gonzales, costumers of the post office, so far, have been considerate about the new change. "We want to thank our Saipan postal customers for their understanding and support of those efforts," he said.

Gonzales also thanked the Department of Public Safety for its efforts.

"We want to thank the Department of Public Safety for their ongoing efforts to ensure that our Saipan post office remains a safe and secure facility for our customers, employees and the mail," said Gonzales.

OCEAN

From Page 1

vestigation.

Monfore, known as a world record breaker in ocean swimming, was described as in his mid-50s.

As of yesterday, the Department of Public Safety had yet to release information about Monfore's death.

A resident of Rota, Dr. Francois Claassens, told *Saipan Tribune* that Monfore was apparently alone at Pinatang Beach, but nobody was really sure whether he was swimming or how he got into the water.

Claassens said he has no

information as to who found Monfore at the beach.

Claassens said Monfore had a "very significant" open head injury, but whether it was a result of him hitting his head while swimming or somebody else hitting him "it is not clear."

He said Monfore's body was found at about 1:30pm Tuesday, Oct. 24.

He said the water was very rough on Rota last Tuesday because of a passing tropical storm.

Claassens said he knows Monfore as a patient.

"He's Californian but went to Bali, Indonesia and he was doing all kinds of swimming exercises for hunger relief. He

was quite an accomplished swimmer," he said.

Claassens expressed disbelief that somebody who knows the ocean so well would go into the water, considering that Rota waters were very rough at the time because of the storm.

"I cannot believe that he would willingly go into that water and expose himself," he said.

He said Monfore settled on Rota by himself six months ago.

"I don't know how he found out about Rota. He came here to retire, to just come and live here, retirement in a quiet village," he said.

Claassens, who met Monfore as a patient, would tell stories about his swimming

experiences.

Monfore was known for making a 7-kilometer, Lombok Straight Fight Hunger Swim in Indonesia as part of the May 13, 2007, World Food Program Global Walk the World, an event supporting hungry schoolchildren throughout the world.

Prior to the Lombok swim, he spoke about the goal of the World Food Program and the United Nations Millennium Campaign to end child hunger by 2015.

In May 2006, Monfore reportedly did the Bali Fight Hunger Swim, where he swam a world record double-crossing of the 4-kilometer Bali Strait.

ZONING

From Page 1

increased since one key thing happened, when a major corporation, Imperial Pacific, came along and showed strong belief in the CNMI economy by investing hundred of million of dollars. They changed the economy here," he said.

With the current economic development and rise in tourism, there is still a need for more hotel rooms.

"The hotels are full and hotel accommodation is maxed out. We have to fill up this demand gap. The gap between the demand and supply of the hotel rooms is the reason why hundreds of these bed-and-breakfast and guesthouses are on the rise," Bateman added.

According to him, the need for new hotel rooms is high on the list.

"Going up doesn't mean you would need more and more people. At the Marianas Visitors Authority, the focus is improving the quality of tourists that come here. How? Better places to stay. That's why we need the new hotels to be built."

"Some hotels on island need renovation because the only way to draw those upscale customers is to give them something upscale to... stay in while they are here. We need hotels, we need them to be in business and we need them to be upgraded," added Bateman.

The urgent need for hotels does not mean that the Zoning office and board approve every hotel development application that come their way.

According to Bateman, before the application even reaches the board, it has been vetted for all of its details by the Zoning staff.

"They go over the application and they decide whether or not it even meets the criteria. In some cases, if the building being proposed does not meet all the qualifications—whether it's a gas station or hotel—it never comes to the board at all," he said,

"If [the proposed project] meets all of [Zoning] require-

ments, then you could do it. The Zoning staff is empowered to, and most of the time, either approve or deny based on that," he added.

"The board determines whether the project is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. What we are doing is have compatible uses in compatible areas and do segregation. If there are questions that are out of our purview, then we refer them to the people that they need to see about that and we tell them to go to this office or agency. Otherwise, they will never get the thing built if they don't meet those criteria," he said.

Bateman said one can get approved by Zoning but if other agencies or offices do not approve the project, then there will be no business.

Under its mandate, the Zoning board recommends any rezoning application to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

"When you come to the Zoning board, you have a fair platform to present the parameters of the development that you want to do and find out the reasons why you want it rezoned. After careful consideration, the board and Zoning staff determine whether to suggest to the Legislature that such is to be approved for rezoning."

Bateman said the board welcomes the current economic dynamics and that the public can expect due diligence from the board when it comes to considering rezoning applications.

"Businesses are growing as we have more business applications than we've had since the early '90s and it's been a long time since this place has actually boomed. Our economy is booming," he said.

"All that money circulates around the economy and goes back to the Everyday Joe. Now if the average Joe wants to get a job, he can get one, unlike five years ago [when] there wasn't a job to be had. The growth is organic. It's not only the rich who reaps the benefits but everyone," he added.

Major siting permit guidebook outlines permitting process

The Division of Coastal Resources Management has come out with a book that guides potential investors on the permit application process in the CNMI.

According to acting DCRM director Janice Castro, the recently developed guidebook, *Know Your CRM Major Siting Permit*, fully outlines the permit application and review process, especially for major siting projects.

Major sitings are proposed projects meeting defined thresholds, located inside or outside of a coastal area of particular concern, as outlined in NMIAC Section 15-10-020, that may directly and significantly affect coastal resources.

"Major sitings include projects that are not within an APC, however, may still impact coastal resources," Castro said. "Such projects may vary greatly in size and scope and could include many activities including mining, home building, hotel and road construction, and infrastructure development."

Castro said the guidebook provides a step-by-step framework and additional resources on how to avoid adverse impacts of a project, including selecting a viable site for proposed use, and compiling a complete Environmental Impact Assessment.

Because major siting permit applications are reviewed by the CRM board agencies—composed of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Public Works, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Office, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Department of Commerce, and the Division of Coastal Resource Management—the guide explains why permitting is essential to protect coastal resources, communities, and developments;

emphasizes that the CNMI's coastal zone includes all territorial lands and waters; and encourages investors and developers to engage in early planning and consultation with these CNMI agencies for successful compliance and development.

Eliceo Cabrera, acting administrator of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, said that the first introduction of the scope of the guidebook was held through workshop-style trainings for BECQ staff, the CRM board, and CNMI environmental consultants.

The trainings were led by Suzanne Frew and Bill Whitman of the LYON Consulting Group, along with DCRM permit manager Erin Derrington and CRM planner Emily Northrop. The trainings were centered on group critical-thinking activities that asked participants to make decisions based on limited information, weigh short-term and long-term benefits, and add creative, environmentally- and socially-beneficial design elements to sample project proposals.

"The guidebook serves as a great resource that is comprehensive but easy to navigate. With the guidebook, we hope to observe more projects that are more sustainable and environmentally responsible," Cabrera said.

One particular exercise asked each table to hold a mock agency pre-application meeting with a "project proponent" to highlight the questions that each side might ask and show how early consultation can help identify potential obstacles and their solutions before significant investment in money, time, and effort.

"Such scenarios are realistic and important to talk about. These trainings and this guidebook will further help BECQ staff communicate when a

major siting permit is needed and what information must be included in an EIA, guide the CRM board and their technical staff in reviewing the application package, especially in terms of adequate mitigation, and build the capacity of the business community that develops major siting application packages and the supporting EIA to meet agency expectations and requirements," she said.

Copies of the guidebook will be available upon final adoption of DCRM's proposed regulation update. The



regulations are currently open for public comment in the *Commonwealth Register* volume which is available online at cnmilaw.org/cnmiregister.html. For more information, contact DCRM 664-8300. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Consultants Betty Johnson of Hofschneider Engineering Corp. and Sonya Dancoe of SP Dancoe & Associate and participants in DCRM's recent "Know Your CRM Major Siting Permit" training work together on a sample site plan for a parcel featuring a wetland, flood zone, and shoreline setback area.

Online survey for people with disabilities

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the State Rehabilitation Council, in collaboration with the San Diego State University Research Foundation's Interwork Institute, are conducting a comprehensive needs assessment of the vocational rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities in the CNMI.

Former, current, or potential consumers of OVR services are encouraged to provide their input into this needs assessment by participating in an online survey. It should take no more than 20 to 25 minutes to complete the survey. Please complete the survey by Nov. 17, 2017. The survey is completely anonymous. You will

not be asked for your name anywhere on the survey.

You can access the survey at the following link: https://sdsu.col.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_dfYTycK3KGdRhml&Q_JFE=0

"We appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is important to us and will help OVR to more effectively meet the needs of people with disabilities in the CNMI. Thank you for participating," OVR said in a statement.

If you have no access to the Internet but would still like to take the survey, call OVR at 322-6537/38 to request for a paper survey. (PR)

Roku TV
12:40pm | Options
12 Items

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Today is Wear Red Day

Today is Wear Red Day and the Red Ribbon Committee and its partners will be holding a roadside waving at the Garapan Fishing Base from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Everyone is encouraged to join the anti-drug campaign. This year’s Red Ribbon Week theme is “Your future is key, so stay drug-free.” Some schools are participating in the gate/wall decorating contest depicting this theme. *(PR)*

Free ‘Personal Finance 101’ seminar today

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar on Saipan, “Personal Finance 101,” at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom today, Oct. 26, 2017, from 8:30am to 10am. It will be presented by Marvin Deleon Guerrero, BankPacific’s assistant vice president and Saipan branch manager. To register, contact the Small Business Development Center at 664-3018 or register online at <http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events>. *(PR)*

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Guangdong Development Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Guangdong Development Corporation is proposing to expand the floor area of 8 units located on the 2nd floor of an existing two-storey structure for staff housing. This use is classified as “Institutional Residential” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H-314-A-2 in As Perdido. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: November 09, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, November 08, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Free training on taxes for small businesses

The CNMI Small Business Development Center is teaming up with accounting firm Ernst & Young to bring you “Understanding Taxes for Small Business,” a free training this Friday, Oct. 27, 2017, from 9am to 10am. It will be presented by Shamika Ratwatte and Andrea Hofschneider at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom in San Jose. *(PR)*

CNMI Next Top Chef competition

The CNMI Next Top Chef 2017 invites interested chefs to register for the competition on Nov. 9, 2017, at 6pm at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Tickets are now on sale for \$50/person including the live cooking competition, full buffet dinner, and raffle. For a chef entry form or tickets, contact Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation at 235-2340 or emptyvesselministry@gmail.com. Jointly organized with the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the event will benefit the Empty Vessel Ministry. *(PR)*

Free workshop on oral history

Rlene Santos Steffy, an ethnographer and oral history practitioner, will be holding an oral history workshop at Kagman High School today, Oct. 26, beginning at 8:45am. This is free and open to the public. *(PR)*

ner, will be holding an oral history workshop at Kagman High School today, Oct. 26, beginning at 8:45am. This is free and open to the public. *(PR)*

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 today, Oct. 27, from 10:30am to 10pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40’ 00”N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. *(PR)*

CNMI-OSHA outreach training on Saipan

The CNMI-OSHA Consultation Program will be conducting a free outreach training on Saipan today, Oct. 26, starting at 9am, at the CNMI-OSHA Consultation Office training room. Private sector employers interested in learning about OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping and reporting requirements are invited to participate. Seats are limited, so call Elaine Pangelinan at 664-3156 or email to Elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com to reserve your seats. Outreach training for Rota and Tinian will be announced later. This program is voluntary, is not required by OSHA, and does not meet the training requirements of OSHA standards. *(PR)*

Halloween Fun at AMP

On Oct. 31, from 3:30pm to 6pm, the American Memorial Park will host trick-or-treating along with a special World War II-theme related costume contest. Prizes will be given for the top three costumes. To participate in the contest, be sure to check-in with staff or volunteers before 6pm. For more information or if you would like to be a part of the event and give out treats, register with Jovannalyn Mafnas by Oct. 27, 2017 at jmafnas@pacifichistoricparks.org or call 234-7207 Ext. 2020. *(NPS)*

Limited tickets for ‘Ultimate Drag Queen’ on Nov. 4

In celebration of their 25th year anniversary in the CNMI, the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will host a fundraiser called “The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017” on Nov. 4, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. VIP tickets cost \$25 and general admission is \$15. Proceeds from the event will be used for the club’s community projects. For more details, call club president Annamae Adaza at 285-4388, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Ernie Molina at 789-8212. *(PR)*

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

The next CNMI Marriage Encounter Weekend will take place at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Nov. 17-19 2017. It is open to husband and wife couples of all denominations and mixed faiths. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$100. If couples are unable to fund the \$100, M.E. will find sponsors to pay the fee. To participate, email cnmime@gmail.com or call Joe and Linda Muña at 287-2102. Space is limited to the first 15 couples only. *(PR)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Ellie D. Cabrera
Acting Administrator



Janice E. Castro
Acting Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Isa Villa Multifamily Housing Development Complex

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction of the Isa Villas project. The Isa Villas project is a multi family development complex which consists of two 3story concrete buildings with 27 housing units. The project includes communal recreational space, community center, drive ways, parking and green space. The project site is located on Capitol Hill, Saipan, on a privately leased property identified as Lot Number 150 E 30. Total area of the project is about 19,969 square meters.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Thursday, November 09, 2017, at 5PM, location to be announced.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Isa Villas Multi-Family Development project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Acting Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Marianas Outsource LLC dba SaveMore Market

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Outsource LLC dba SaveMore Market is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for a “Mom & Pop Grocery Store”. This use is classified as “Mom & Pop Grocery Store” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 015 D 46-49, along President Street in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: November 09, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, November 08, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Golden Aurora LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Golden Aurora LLC is proposing to occupy 3 existing structures with a total of 26 units to operate a motel. Building 1, a two-storey structure consists of 10 units; Building 2, a two-storey structure consists of 4 units; and Building 3, a three-storey structure consists of 12 units. This use is classified as “Motel” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract Nos. 21818NEW-4, 21818NEW-5 & 21818NEW-R2 in Susupe. This area is zoned a Village Commercial.

Date: November 09, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, November 08, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, November 09, 2017

5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

- A. Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of 11/09/2017 agenda
 4. Adoption of 10/26/2017 meeting minutes
 5. Public Comments (*not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings*)
- B. Public Hearings:**
1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3449:** Marianas Outsource LLC dba SaveMore Market is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for a “Mom & Pop Grocery Store”. This use is classified as “Mom & Pop Grocery Store” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 015 D 46-49, along President Street in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
 2. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3775:** Guangdong Development Corporation is proposing to expand the floor area of 8 units located on the 2nd floor of an existing two-storey structure for staff housing. This use is classified as “Institutional Residential” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H-314-A-2 in As Perdido. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
 3. **Conditional Use Application #2017-4021:** Golden Aurora LLC is proposing to occupy 3 existing structures with a total of 26 units to operate a motel. Building 1, a two-storey structure consists of 10 units; Building 2, a two-storey structure consists of 4 units; and Building 3, a three-storey structure consists of 12 units. This use is classified as “Motel” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract Nos. 21818NEW-4, 21818NEW-5, & 21818NEW-R2 in Susupe. This area is zoned a Village Commercial.
- C. Communication**
D. Old Business
E. New Business
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
- F. Executive (Closed) Session**
G. Miscellaneous
- a. Other Matters
 - b. Announcements
 - c. Next Meeting
- Adjourn**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Another NMC graduate passes NCLEX

Another Northern Marianas College graduate has joined the list of students who have passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN. Matthew Go Quiambao, who graduated from NMC last May, recently took the exam and passed on his first attempt.

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

"We are extremely proud of Matthew's accomplishment as well as the other nursing students who have been able to reach this important milestone of passing the NCLEX," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Recent NMC graduates who have also passed the NCLEX include Judith Galang Diaz,

Mika Sablan, Lovely Lopez, Gemmilie Eugenio, YuGeun Oh, Michael Hidalgo, Joy Waldo, and Joshua Tanghal.

"Matthew has a bright future in the nursing field and we expect to see great things from him as his educational and professional journey continues," said NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa M. Tudela. "We wish him the best on his future career in health care."

"Nursing is actually not my first career choice, but it all changed when I lost my mother, who had a stroke," said Quiambao. "Every time I watched my mom when she was in the hospital, I realized how awesome and important nurses are, and to be able to help those in need was enough for me to change my mind."

"NMC helped prepare me for the NCLEX exam through the support of my instructors," said Quiambao. "Their constant reminder of how im-

portant passing the NCLEX helped me push through all my challenging course work."

For more information about the NMC Nursing program, contact the NMC Nursing

Department at 237-6743 or visit the Nursing Department office in Building C at

the NMC As Terlaje campus, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4:30pm. (NMC)



Quiambao



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Community School National Junior Speech and Debate team and their coaches pose for a group photo.

Guam delegate suggests options to save Chamorro Land Trust

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo has proposed five options to save the Chamorro Land Trust program, which has been challenged in court by the federal government.

The U.S. Department of Justice lawsuit claims the local government violated the federal Fair Housing Act "for discriminating against non-Chamorros," the Pacific Daily News reported.

The Chamorro Land Trust program aims to hold public land for indigenous Chamorros, who can lease 1-acre tracts for \$1 a year for 99 years. The Land Trust Commission also leases land for commercial use to non-Chamorros.

The federal government sued after a Caucasian Tamuning resident earlier this year filed a complaint with federal housing officials, stating he was prohibited from applying for a lease under the Chamorro Land Trust.

Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson has said the government of Guam will not compromise on the issue and plans to have the matter settled in court.

Bordallo's letter to Gov. Eddie Calvo and Speaker Benjamin Cruz on Monday provided options to save the program that include mimicking other federal programs in Hawaii and Alaska, or creating a Chamorro tribe.

The first is to model a new

federal law on the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, which allows the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to provide long-term leases at nominal cost to Native Hawaiians for homesteading.

The second is to federalize the Chamorro Land Trust Act, which would give it status under federal law.

The third option is remodeling the Chamorro Land Trust after the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which allowed Alaska Native corporations to own and manage land for the exclusive benefit of their shareholders: Alaska's indigenous people, Bordallo wrote in the letter.

The fourth option is to give federal tribal recognition to Guam's Chamorro people — something that already has been proposed by Democrat Sen. Michael San Nicolas in a resolution.

The fifth option is to seek a Fair Housing Act exemption for the Chamorro Land Trust, which would address the violations local government is accused of.

Bordallo said island leaders need to reach a consensus about what to do with the Chamorro Land Trust.

"I will introduce legislation that reflects this consensus, and I have always believed that we have the best chance of success when we present a unified, 'One Guam' position," Bordallo said.

SCS fetes NJSDA team

Saipan Community School congratulates its students who participated in the National Junior Speech and Debate competition last Oct. 14.

The SCS junior high students have worked hard and taken initiative to choose and learn each piece. In this competition SCS had 13 students who chose to join with eight students placing and securing 11 placement awards. A special congratulations goes

out to the students representing SCS who placed in this event including:

■ 6th grader: Olivia Hwang for placing 5th in the Prose event and 4th in the Poetry event.

■ 7th graders: Seo Young Baek and Jesus Roman Sablan for placing 1st in the DUO category, One An for placing 4th in Impromptu, Amena Mahmud for placing 4th in Poetry MA, Jesus Roman Sa-

blan for placing 2nd in the Storytelling event, and Daniel Kang for placing 5th in the Prose event.

■ 8th graders: Moon Zeng for placing 2nd in Impromptu, Tina Zheng for placing 2nd in the storytelling category and 3rd in Impromptu, and finally to Rose Zhou for placing 4th in Prose.

SCS would also like to thank the parents and coaches for their support in these extra-

curricular activities.

If you are interested in learning more about Saipan Community School and/or the learning opportunities we offer from kindergarten through 8th grade please contact SCS principal Amanda Dunn via email: principal@saipancommunityschool.com or call the school's offices at 234-6687 or come visit SCS on Beach Road in Susupe. (PR)



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MVA to promote Marianas ‘Insta-genic’ spots



MVA Carolinas Lookout on Tinian is one of the “Marianas Insta-genic Spots” to be promoted by the Marianas Visitors Authority in Japan beginning in December 2017.




MVA The Rota Swimming Hole is one of the “Marianas Insta-genic Spots” to be promoted by the Marianas Visitors Authority in Japan beginning in December 2017.


The Marianas Visitors Authority has identified a number of “Insta-genic” spots on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to premiere on the MVA’s Japanese website starting in December. Geo Graphic Inc. was in the Marianas on Oct. 13-19, 2017, to capture the sites for MVA’s website in Japan, which receives 15,000 unique users each month.

“Social media impact is tremendous, and ‘Marianas Insta-genic Spots’ gives visitors a peek at the phenomenal scenes

they can capture throughout the Marianas,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “In addition to the stunning natural sites we have, the spots also include interesting historical perspectives and fun scenes at many local businesses.” Highlighted sites on Rota are Sinapalu and Songsong, Swimming Hole, Teteto Beach, the Japanese-era sugar mill, Rubin Dive Shop, and Coral Garden. Sites on Tinian include Broadway, San Jose village, Taga Beach, Tachogna Beach, Carolinas Lookout, JC Café, Cyber Coffee Shop, Unai Chulu Beach, Mt. Lasso, House of Taga, Khan’s Pizza House, Lucky Qiang, and U-save Market. Sites on Saipan include Wing Beach, Marianas Trekking, Kensington Hotel, Micro Beach, the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Ladder Beach, Smiling Cove, Managaha Island, Old Man by the Sea, Sugar Dock, Mt. Carmel Cathedral, San Vicente, Sugar King Park, Garapan, I Love Saipan, Navy Hill, Capital Hill, Mt. Tapochao, Obyan Beach, and Forbidden Island. Hotels and other accommodations include Rota Resort & Country Club, Bay View Hotel, Valentino Hotel, Tinian Ocean View Hotel, Mariana Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Grandvrio Resort, Saipan World Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort. The group lodged at Serenti Hotel. (MVA)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-18-IFB-002

CONSTRUCTION OF SAN VICENTE CENTRAL PARK, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Construction of San Vicente Central Park**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **October 19, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.”

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 7, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 9, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **“DPW-18-IFB-002”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:30 a.m. local time November 22, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:30 a.m. local time, November 22, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 22, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **December 1, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m. local time, December 6, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **11:00 a.m. local time, on November 22, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Peter P. Camacho
Acting Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply



MVA The iconic Saipan sign in Marpi is one of the “Marianas Insta-genic Spots” to be promoted by the Marianas Visitors Authority in Japan beginning in December 2017.

‘Ride for Her’ bike ride this Saturday

DFS Saipan Ltd is sponsoring the “Ride for Her” bike ride this Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017. This ride is part of DFS Saipan’s activities for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For a registration fee of \$10, participants will get a free shirt and one raffle ticket for a chance to win great prizes from DFS. There will be two all-road routes:

- 40K: From the DFS Beach Road entrance to the Hawaiian Rock entrance and back.
- 20K: From the DFS Beach Road entrance to Pacific Islands Club and back;

DFS Group supports Breast Cancer Awareness Month worldwide. The ride culminates a monthlong series of activities that DFS employees engaged in to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the CNMI, including a presentation of cancer statistics in the CNMI from Dr. John Tudela and Dr. Phuong Luu and a “Pink Bake Sale.” Proceeds from the bake sale will also be donated to the CCA. (PR)

Scheduled power outage on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace deteriorated power pole hardware along Isa Drive on Capitol Hill. This is part of an ongoing systems maintenance project to strengthen and harden the integrity of the power distribution system throughout Saipan. Water services to Garapan, CHCC hospital, Lower Navy Hill, Sadog Tasi, and Lower

Base areas will be interrupted during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized. Areas to be affected include Isa Drive, Capital Hill (Sagua Dr., Hafno St., Mate Dr., and Haat Pl.), Sadog Tasi (Coastal Dr., Laguna Dr., Trenchera Ln., Nonak Dr., Rubentasion Ln., Woosch Dr., Tide Lp., Leeset Ln., Acho Tasi Pl., Sadog Tasi Dr., and Pila Dr.), Lower Base Drive, and Lower Base (Orhopay Pl., Pagu Av., Ufa St., Manglen Way, and Mangrove Pl.)

Water wells to be affected include SQ-4, SQ-7, SQ-148, SQ-149, and SQ-150. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. CUC appreciates the understanding of the community during this period. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

MINA short film a finalist at Calif. filmfest



My Haggan Dream, a short film produced last year by the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, has been named a finalist in the MY HERO Peoples' Choice Film Festival in Los Angeles, California.

My Haggan Dream, a short film produced last year by the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, has been named a finalist in the MY HERO Peoples' Choice Film Festival in Los Angeles, California.

This has been the trend with this short film, which MINA produced with the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources Sea Turtle Program, the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office.

It has been played in film

festivals in Guam, France (at Cannes Shorts), Spain, and Hawaii, and has won awards at the International Ocean Festival and Blue Ocean Film Festival, and was an official selection at the Waimea Ocean Film Festival, International Wildlife Film Festival, 2017 Bay Area International Children's Film Festival, Cannes Short Film Festival, and Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

If it wins at the Los Angeles film festival, the film will get into hundreds of classrooms around the country.

Those who would like to vote may go online at myhero.com/peopleschoice. Voting closes on Nov. 5.

According to information on the My Hero website, "MY HERO is a non-profit educational project that empowers people of all ages to realize their potential to effect positive change in the world. Since 1995, over 100 million people from 197 countries have participated in The MY HERO Project. More information about My Hero can be found at <https://my-hero.com/About>. (PR)

Saipan Chamber meeting on Nov. 2

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly general membership meeting on Nov. 2 at the SandCastle of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The luncheon begins at 11:30am; the meeting starts promptly at noon. Note that this meeting will be on Thursday rather than Wednesday, for this month only.

Gary Camacho, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., will update

Chamber members on power generation, water programs, and the effect of Saipan's growth. Acting Labor secretary Vicky Benavente will talk about changes happening with the agency.

There will also be a board election four Chamber directors who will serve for two-year terms. The number of votes available to each member company is based on the membership category on

one's application. For example, Category A receives one vote, Category B receives two votes, etc. Chamber staff will be prepared with the category listing and number of votes for each company at the luncheon meeting.

Toy donations for the Toys 4 Tots program, which is being led by Chamber committee Saipan Young Professionals will be accepted at the meeting. (PR)

DEA prepares for Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Shawn N. Anderson, the acting U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, will join the Drug Enforcement Administration on Oct. 28 for its 14th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

The biannual event will be held from 10am to 2pm, at thousands of collection sites around the country, including in Guam and here in the NMI.

The event is an effort to rid homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Drop off unused prescription drugs at these areas on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017, between 10am and 2pm:

- Commonwealth Health Center (in front of the pharmacy)
- Rota Health Center
- Tinian Health Center
- Agana Shopping Center (across Vitamin World)
- Andersen Air Force Base

Exchange (inside entrance)

- Naval Base Guam (Navy Exchange food court)

Last April Americans turned in 450 tons (900,000 lbs) of prescription drugs at almost 5,500 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 13 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 8.1 million lbs—more than 4,050 tons—of pills. The disposal service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. (The DEA cannot accept liquids, needles, or sharps, only pills or patches.)

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 91 Americans die each day from an opioid overdose. Some painkiller abusers move on to heroin: Four out of five new heroin users started with painkillers.

Flushing medications down the toilet or throwing them in the trash pose potential safety and health hazards. This initiative addresses the public safety and public health issues that surround medications languishing in home cabinets, becoming highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse.

Contact DEA special agent Dave Stubbs at (671) 472-7384 regarding any questions about prescription drug abuse and/or any concerns regarding drug related activity on Guam or in the NMI.

For more information, go to www.dea.gov, www.getsmart-aboutdrugs.com, or www.just-thinktwice.com. (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office

Guma' Hustisia · Imwal Aweewe · House of Justice

P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950

T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

CASE WORKER I

Announcement # JVA18-01

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which is responsible for drug court assessments, case management with drug court participants and provides ongoing support to the Drug Court operation/functions. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conduct intake, assessment, establish case plan for referred participants;
- Conducts program/phase orientation and inform participants of legal requirements and implications concerning treatment;
- Tracks drug tests, group attendance, individual counseling attendance, outside groups (Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Discovery Course) and other services;
- Provides case management;
- Coordinates/conducts individual, family and group therapeutic/educational/substance abuse treatment sessions/and crisis intervention;
- Conducts discharge planning and provides referrals for continuing treatment;
- Provides follow-up contact as needed;
- Communicates with Compliance Specialist and other Drug Court staff to secure resources for participants;
- Maintains files, records legal and case documentation in accordance with established regulatory policies and procedure;
- Attends staff meetings, in-service training, workshops, and interagency conferences to coordinate services;
- Attends Drug Court sessions as needed; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, or closely related field. Have three (3) years experience as a counselor in substance abuse treatment programs. Any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the minimum knowledge, abilities and skills required for the position. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$35,000 - \$40,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources

Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice

P.O. Box 502165

Saipan, MP 96950

Tel. (670)236-9818

Fax. (670) 236-9702

michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This internal job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PROVIDER

Announcement # JVA18-03

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which actively monitors drug court participants outside of the drug court setting including conducting home and job visits. All clients contact is documented and visits logged to help encourage positive participant behavior. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ensures random drug testing and community supervision practices are in accordance with Drug Court policies and procedures;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for drug court hearings;
- Coordinates criminal background checks for drug court participants;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the participants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Documents facts with respect to the drug court participants' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while on supervision;
- Reports investigative findings conducted by assigned Drug Court law enforcement officer (s) to drug court and prepares recommendations for the proper case disposition;
- Appears in drug court hearings with the ability to provide testimony on drug court cases;
- Provides periodic interviews of participants to determine effectiveness of Drug Court mandates, supervision, counseling, etc.
- Maintains ongoing relationship with participants throughout the duration of the program;
- Follows Court policy for monitoring payments ordered by the Drug Court. The payments to be monitored include, but are not limited to, drug court fees, restitution, fine, child supports, etc.;
- Plans office activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions;
- Maintains accurate, neat, legible and up to date case records in the prescribed form;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conference, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Responsible for and conducts gender-specific, observed drug testing in accordance with CNMI Drug Court protocols;
- Continually assess and review supervision and drug testing protocols and terms and conditions of supervision regularly to ensure they are still working for the target populations; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) Have a bachelor's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in criminal justice or a related field, plus at least six months experience as a law enforcement officer; OR (2) four years experience as a law enforcement officer. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$28,000 - \$30,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Japan on the rise: An emboldened premier looks to remilitarization

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe rolled the dice high in holding elections a year early in spite of the fact that his own personal popularity rating stood about 30 percent.

But it paid off, unlike British Prime Minister Theresa May's bid to improve her Conservative Party's position with early elections in June. Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner won two-thirds of the seats in the lower house of the parliament on Sunday, clearing the way for some constitutional changes he wants to make, including movement toward the remilitarization of Japan. The turnout was low, about 30 percent, due to severely inclement weather, but the LDP's margin was clear.

Seeking lessons for the United States from political developments in other vigorous democracies, it was also interesting to see that the LDP's previous major opposition for years, the Democratic Party, split into pieces in advance of the elections. One fragment, the Party of Hope, led by popular Tokyo mayor Yuriko Koike, surged briefly, then sagged when Koike withdrew her own candidacy. Another ex-piece of the Democratic Party, the Constitutional Democratic Party, ended up doing better at the polls than the Party of Hope.

Probably the biggest issue in the Japanese elections was what should be done about North Korean rocket-rattling. (The economy is humming along.) Japan's neighbors in Pyongyang have fired two intercontinental ballistic missiles across Japan into the sea in recent months. Given President Donald Trump's erratic approach to that issue and others of interest to the Japanese, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, which Japan supported and Trump dumped, the Japanese are coming to have less confidence in the relationship it has shared with the United States since its surrender in 1945.

Abe's move toward constitutionally sanctioned remilitarization is a logical Japanese response to both the North Korean threat and the American shift of posture.

For a United States interested in reducing its exposure and its expenses overseas, a stronger and more independent Japanese defense role could be welcome. The difficult part could be the reaction of Japanese rivals and formerly militarily dominated neighbors China, North and South Korea, the Philippines and others to a Japan rearmed with 21st-century weapons, including nuclear arms if the Japanese like. Japan's occupation and Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere in the region died only 72 years ago and lingers on in the region in bitter memories.

Let's hope that Washington is thinking this issue through as it determines its policy response to Abe's strengthened mandate. Another visit by Abe to Mar-a-Lago probably won't do it.

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Just another way to jump on sympathy bandwagon

I was five years out of law school when Professor Anita Hill put on a sky-blue suit and walked into our consciousness, and history. The coverage of her accusation that Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas had sexually harassed her at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission seemed like a circus, complete with flashing cameras, clueless senators, and salivating commentators. Still not jaded by experience and convinced that there was purpose and meaning to these public confessions, I was appalled by the glittering Hollywood veneer that overlaid the proceedings. Mind you, this was before the O.J. trial, the Clinton impeachment, and The Real Fishwives of Wherever.

Today, the Hill hearings seem sober and constrained. Social media has made it impossible to have any conversation about any topic without devolving into the trite, the shallow, and the tweeted. It's not at all surprising, then, that sexual harassment has gotten the hashtag treatment.

Last weekend, Alyssa Milano invited women across the country to put the words #metoo on their social-media accounts to show solidarity with victims of abuse in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein accusations. My Facebook feed began to fill up with stories of misconduct ranging from rape, to "date rape," to lewd jokes in the workplace, to being whistled at, to being ogled, to childhood abuse. It evoked some confusing emotions in me.

The first one was empathy for women who felt victimized. There was such a flood of responses that you couldn't dismiss the phenomenon out of hand. There were women the age of my mother who recounted tales of sexual violation, and the thought that those incidents were still so fresh decades later was sobering.

But that emotion soon gave way to annoyance, and then anger. Yes, at abusive men. But that's the easy part. I have known abusive men, grown up around them, feared them, avoided them. They are not unicorns. And yet, they are also not as ubiquitous as this social-media onslaught would allow us to believe.

My deepest and most enduring anger is at people who, in a misguided attempt to help women, will use this moment to

By **CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS**
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.



both trivialize the phenomena of sexual abuse and limit the class of people who can be shown compassion.

This hashtag business is stupid. I know I'm not supposed to criticize the #metoo because it's a 21st-century way for people who don't even know each other but have suffered similar calamities to bond and connect. Actually, it's not. It's more a way for marginal characters in these dramas to jump on the sympathy bandwagon and say, "Hey, don't leave me out; it happened here, too!"

Here is why I am not moved by this digital campaign to hold men accountable for their evil deeds. First, it's too easy to confuse harassment with actual abuse. Being made to feel uncomfortable because some caveman drools in your face is unfortunate, but it has no business being included in a #metoo scenario alongside of a woman whose ex-husband held a gun to her head unless she had sex with him. This campaign has thrown all sorts of unpleasant activity together, so that the college student (me) who had a crush on her professor and then got propositioned by him thinks she's been harassed. Maybe I was, but I have no right putting that alongside of women who were raped.

More insidious is the way that men have been made to feel guilty, and then silenced, if they, too, suffered abuse. When I suggested on my Facebook page that men are in a virtually statistical dead heat when it comes to cases of domestic abuse, I was criticized by those who have a vested interest in keeping this a woman's issue.

When I said that boys who are abused by female teachers are treated differently than girls, I was told to be quiet, and that women are never physically capable of overpowering men (a lie). When I mentioned my immigrant clients who had been battered by their U.S. citizen wives, it became an "immigration issue."

And when I saw men apologizing on social media if they had offended the women in their lives, I realized this was a Stockholm syndrome situation.

This is moral laziness. There is a problem, and it should be addressed soberly, not manipulated with social memes.

#Methrough

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why the public hates us

It's been a rough 12 months for the news media. We got the election wrong, we got booed at campaign events and some of us got death threats on Twitter. The president called us an "enemy of the American people." Lots of us are getting laid off (which at least makes us less likely to get death threats). And in a new Reuters-Ipsos poll, only 48 percent surveyed had a "great deal" or "some" confidence in the journalists.

Now, that's a nine-point jump since November. But while headed in the right direction, these numbers are still abysmally low. People trust reporters at about the same rate that they trust vaccines (only 51 percent believe that they're safe) or believe in haunted houses (which 47 percent believe exist). This is really bad news for reporters, not to mention unvaccinated children.

How to explain these numbers? I have a few ideas.

The first is that reporters are like members of Congress: everybody hates them in general, but loves their own. When I was growing up in Springfield, Mass., everybody got the local newspaper. We knew the reporters' bylines, and we even knew the reporters. I could recognize the education reporter, Mary Ellen O'Shea, by sight, because she was always in and out of my schools.

But as small and midsize papers have closed or been put on starvation budgets, there are fewer local reporters left. To most people, "reporter" is less a local job held by a real person and

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We are ready but is SB 20-62 ready?

If anything is clear, it is the fact that the Senate is taking legalization very seriously. From what I have witnessed, the Senate and we the people are ready. I have yet to hear of anyone being adamantly against legalization. Just words of wisdom and caution. The Senate and Sen. Sixto Igisomar are off to a great start to completing a bill that we are all hopeful will be the best bill possible. Like many others, we are all anxious to find out what the final version of the bill will be.

The majority are clearly speaking out for legalization and even pushing the Senate to hurry up. There have been a lot of constructive comments and recommendations about the bill and I'm not complaining, just offering constructive criticism.

It was almost three years ago at the first Senate hearing on legalization that two people pleaded for the Senate to expedite the bill so they could have access to the use of marijuana products to relieve their pain and even extend their life. Those two people are now dead! I refuse to let their deaths be in vain nor their words be forgotten. This is serious stuff and there are others in the CNMI who need access to marijuana, so I beg senators and for voters to think about the sick when finalizing this bill. If it's going to be an initiative, it will be at least another three years before the first dispensaries will open while people continue to suffer and die. Time is no one's friend on this medical, social and economic issue. The longer we wait, the longer we flounder, helping no one and going nowhere.

I am not the only one who would like to see some changes in the bill. We can always make improvements and this bill is no different—the bill is not ready yet but hopefully the Senate will fix its flaws. I have faith in the Senate. I will be waiting to see what the final bill will entail before making any more comments about it. I just hope the Senate will do as I requested at the public hearing—to conduct some form of an education forum on the final draft, followed by a survey about the bill before they take a final vote, which should assure the Legislature and the governor that the bill is truly the best that can be offered for the CNMI, eliminating any more delays. Thank you, Senate, for taking this bill seriously.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

more either a TV talking head or an unknown elite, writing copy from faraway Washington or New York.

Second, as news consumption has shifted to Facebook and other social media, we no longer know who originally produced the stories we read. Our relationships are no longer with reporters, or even newspapers or magazines, but with our Facebook or Twitter "feeds." So we trust certain friends to give us news, but don't trust the people who reported the news.

Finally, there's the old argument that people believe reporters are biased in favor of liberals. There's some truth to that; surveys suggest that journalists are far more likely to be Democrats than Republicans.

But we have to ask why that is the case. One root cause is that conservatives have opted out of competition. Newsgathering has come to resemble nonprofit work or public-interest law: A do-gooder occupation for elite-college graduates.

The young conservatives I know seldom consider journalism as a field, either because it pays so little or because they assume they wouldn't be welcome. Conservatives are thus less likely than ever to have a friend in newsgathering. And if they happen to see a reporter in the flesh, they often intuit, correctly, that he or she is not their kind of people.

A deeper, systemic problem is that even conservatives who think they might be interested in journalism aren't groomed to be reporters. Whereas liberal magazines like the *Nation* and *Mother Jones* spend resources on investigative reporting, in addition to opinion writing, conservative publications, like *National Review* or *Weekly Standard*, seldom break a story, focusing just on opinion writing. Young conservative writers who get their first internships or entry-level jobs at conservative publications thus have a hard time learning the skills, or developing the clip file, to show that they can report.

So a liberal college student who interns at a liberal magazine could end up a professional reporter, whereas a conservative college student with some writing chops may end up at a conservative think tank or activist organization. This is actually good for movement conservatism, but it's bad for the media, which could

LITERARY NOOK

Orange October

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Old-Fashioned Orange October

Now orange October a pumpkin cliché plump turkeys are destined for super marts as November grows near short grows their day autumnal dirges now tear through their hearts vegetarians cook firm soybean curd basted turkeys in the oven roasting hot juicy giblet gravy from the bird mashed potatoes for dinners we're hosting harvest brings an abundance of things nice fresh apple cider jugs chill in the frost gingerbread and pumpkin pies filled with spice covered with whipped cream regardless the cost candies cookies and other sweet delights will end October's jack-o-lantern nights.

Evening is Spread Out Against the Sky

"Let us go then, you and I when the evening is spread out against the sky"

—from *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* by T.S. Eliot (1888- 1965)

I'm looking toward the skyline in the Southeast its clear tonight and I'm wondering why those few clouds look like some big beast lots of stars shining bright up there in the sky the moon is coming up soon reflecting the sun did you know its made from elemental metal

By MARK OPPENHEIMER

Los Angeles Times



Mark Oppenheimer, a contributing writer to the Los Angeles Times opinion section, is the host of *Unorthodox*, the podcast of *Tablet* magazine.

use a more diverse set of voices in the newsrooms.

Or compare the next-generation liberal and conservative sites BuzzFeed and Breitbart. BuzzFeed has invested deeply in investigations (alongside cat gifs), while Breitbart relies pretty much exclusively on sensationalist clickbait.

If you're a 22-year-old liberal and you get a job at BuzzFeed, you might well learn the ins and outs of the Freedom of Information Act. If you're a conservative and you get a job at Breitbart, you'll learn how to write propagandistic "takes" in favor of the Trump administration.

The irony is that the millions of readers of trashy right-wing websites, while learning to mistrust the mainstream media, don't really think much of the right-wing media, either. They prefer swimming in that swamp, but they still know it's a swamp.

It's hard to see a way out of this climate of mistrust. What might work? Journalism schools could recruit conservative students, as conservative think tanks and political organizations do. Some thoughtful conservative billionaire could decide to underwrite investigative reporting internships for right-leaning students.

But the real answer is a return to local reporting. It may come in the form of nonprofit, reader-supported websites like the *Texas Tribune* or *New Haven Independent*. It may come when somebody figures out a for-profit model that can deliver news to smaller audiences. But only when we know our reporters again will we begin to trust them.

it will be billions of years before its day is done the Milky Way flows from the spout of the Teakettle orientation through the Big Dipper to find Polaris Cassiopeia sits in judgement in her celestial chair mariners pray to Star of the Sea Ave Stella Maris quietly in flows the dawn of a brand new day on our remote spiral arm of the Milky Way.

In October Wine is Truth Beer Not Uncouth

A chronic dyspepsian, devilish dude, enjoyed big lunches he remembered the chili and onions and forgot the relish with which he wolfed down three of Ignatius' Lucky Dogs. the brown mustard spread by a *Confederacy of Dunces Weiners, Hamburgers, Berliners ate them dogs all day long noodles, buns, cream sauces, krauts, bread and cheeses galore accompanied the sausage and beer and down the gullet pour while they loudly sang an Oktoberfest beer drinking song there were lobster rolls and Maine lobster out on the dock fresh reef fish intestines tasted on a jagged coral rock tuna hearts pulled right out of the fish on a Pohnpeian boat life in the water, life with a glass of wine, down the throat reds whites cabernet pinot noir chianti merlot and zinfandel InVinoVeritas, life with wine enjoy the taste, effect, and smell.

*In the comic American novel by John Kennedy Toole, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, the main character named Ignatius pushes a hotdog cart shaped like a hotdog (they still exist). The name of the hotdogs is Lucky Dogs.

What Autumn Taught 'Em

leaves of maple were falling so I caught 'em pumpkins were plumping so I bought 'em geese in clouds headed south so I sought 'em buck with a big rack of horns so I shot him winds blowing cold off the hill so I fought 'em both my knees of old in pain so I got 'em

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼78°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

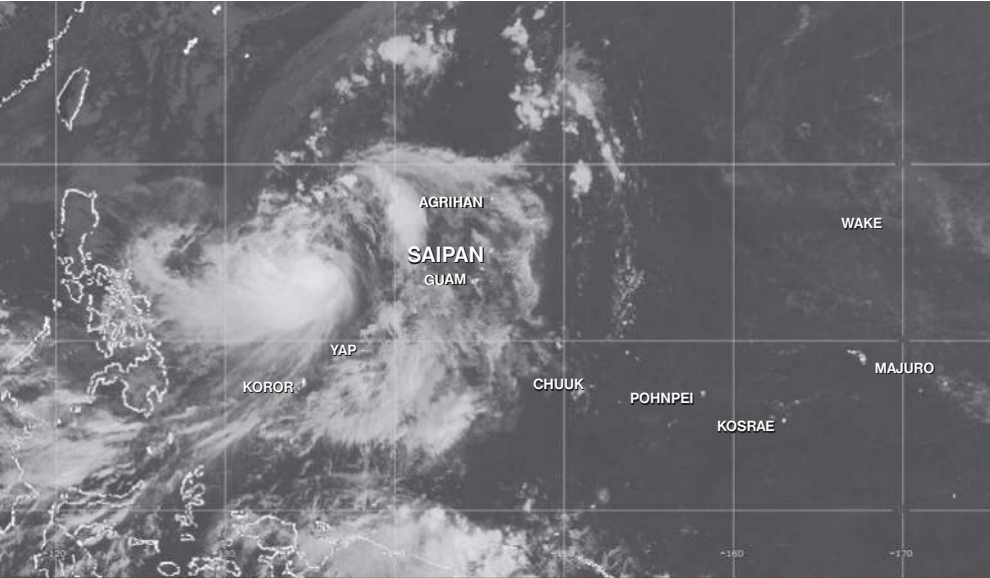
▲88° ▼78°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:15 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Saola will continue to move away from the Marianas. Low-level convergence east of Saola will produce isolated showers and thunderstorms today through Thursday. A ridge of high pressure building across the Marianas will decrease deep-layer moisture and only partly cloudy and isolated showers are expected Thursday and Friday. Moisture will remain low through the coming weekend, allowing partly cloudy skies and isolated showers to prevail. VAD wind profile shows 25 to 30 knot winds at 2kft. This agrees with model winds at the surface of 15 to 20 mph with a few higher gust today. Winds will decrease tonight to 10 to 15 mph.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	66° / 57°	
Beijing	Cloudy	66° / 45°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 72°	
London	Cloudy	63° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 66°	
Manila	Showers	88° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 72°	
New York	Showers	63° / 49°	
Osaka	Sunny	73° / 61°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°	
Busan	Sunny	72° / 59°	
Rome	Sunny	73° / 48°	
Salem	Sunny	71° / 45°	
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 53°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	72° / 46°	
Tokyo	Sunny	70° / 55°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	61° / 46°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.10	
12:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.68	
6:41 PM	LOW TIDE	1.19	
10:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.49	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Monday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:13 am	10:50 pm	-
Friday	12:00 pm	11:40 pm	-
Saturday	12:46 pm	-	-
Sunday	-	12:30 am	1:30 pm
Monday	-	1:21 am	2:14 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2017									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7			7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5			7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4			7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily			ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily			LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)						HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1			JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4			JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)						NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN			
XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7			XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6 via GUM			UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM			UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR						
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM						
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM						
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM						



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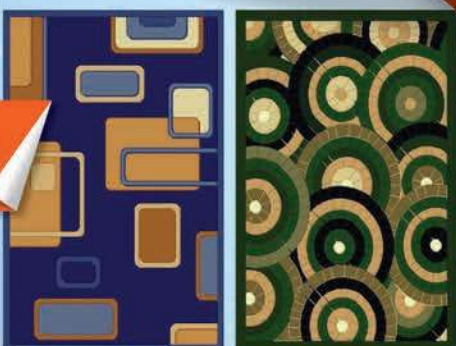


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Business

Republicans propose new conditions on health bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two top Republicans announced a bill Tuesday restoring federal subsidies to insurers while including tough conditions sought by the White House. Senate Democrats have enough votes to kill it, but the measure underscores the changes the Trump administration and congressional conservatives say they want in exchange for resuming the payments.

The proposal seeks changes in President Barack Obama's health care law that go far further than provisions in bipartisan legislation that is stuck in the Senate. That compromise has stalled as President Donald Trump has flashed contradictory signals about whether he supports it and conservatives—especially in the House—have complained it doesn't revamp Obama's statute strongly enough.

Tuesday's GOP alternative—by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch of Utah and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady of Texas—highlighted the party's internal differences over the issue.

At a lunch Tuesday with GOP senators, Trump apparently said nothing to indicate which—if either—alternative he preferred. Trump at one point told Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the Republican author of the mired bipartisan deal: "Thanks for your great work on health care. It's good, it's good," according to a GOP aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the closed-door comments.

Like the bipartisan Senate bill, the new measure would resume the federal payments to insurers for two years. Trump has halted them, claiming they enrich insurers, but has expressed a willingness to make a deal to resume them.

The plan by Hatch and Brady would temporarily halt tax penalties Obama's health care law imposes on people who don't buy insurance and employers who don't offer coverage to workers. The fine against individuals would be halted from 2017 through 2021, while the penalty on employers would be retroactive, suspended from 2015 through this year.

Those fines are a pillar of Obama's overhaul, prodding healthy people to buy coverage. Ending them is a non-starter with Democrats.

Tuesday's bill also includes "pro-life protections." GOP aides would not describe them, but Republicans have often sought to prevent federal payments from being used to buy health insurance that covers abortions.

The measure would also let people contribute more money to tax-favored health savings accounts.

A written statement from Brady and Hatch said the proposals "can serve as a basis for the types of real reforms" needed to overhaul Obama's law.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., rejected the latest bill. Murray wrote the Senate's bipartisan measure with Alexander.

"We already know that partisan proposals to take coverage away from millions of people, spike premiums, and inject even more uncertainty into health care markets cannot pass the Senate," Murray said in a written statement.

Nissan executive bows to apologize for inspections scandal

TOKYO (AP)—Nissan Executive Vice President Daniele Schillaci bowed deeply for several seconds in a Japanese-style apology Wednesday, expressing his remorse for widespread illegal inspections at the automaker.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express a sincere apology for our recent issues," he said at the Nissan Motor Co. booth at the Tokyo Motor Show. "We sincerely regret any inconvenience and concern this has caused our valued customers."

This year's show highlights smart and green vehicles that talk, connect online and stop on their own before crashes. But scandals surfacing within weeks of the auto show, including another one at Kobe Steel that's hit the entire industry, are casting a shadow over the festivities.

Reporters got a preview of the show at Tokyo Big Sight hall, ahead of its opening to the public Saturday.

Schillaci switched from his nearly tearful apology to an upbeat demeanor after a resonating electronic beep - the special sound called Canto, designed for Nissan electric

cars to protect pedestrians. Electric cars are extremely quiet compared to gas-engine cars, and people have complained about not being aware of their approaching.

"What you just heard is the sound of the future," he said, proceeding happily with his presentation on automated driving and electric sports cars.

Taking center stage at the Nissan booth was a sleek zero-emissions electric "concept" car, billed as "Nissan intelligent mobility." It comes with surrounding 360-degree sensors capability from radars, cameras, lasers and sonars, to deliver accident-free driving as well as a future in which the car will drive itself home after dropping its owner off, according to Schillaci.

This nation has suffered a series of auto scandals in recent years, including a massive recall of defective air-bags made by Japanese supplier Takata Corp. The ongoing recall affects some 100 million air-bag inflators globally. The defect has been linked to 19 deaths and dozens of injuries. The global industry has also been rocked by a

scandal at Volkswagen AG of Germany over cars it had illegally rigged to cheat on U.S. emissions tests.

Nissan, allied with Renault SA of France, acknowledged last month inspection irregularities had been going on for years at its plants in Japan, with the final checks being routinely done by unauthorized staff.

To make matters worse, shortly after it apologized, Nissan said the illegal checks had continued. It has halted production in Japan for the domestic market until it can figure out how a recurrence can be prevented.

Nissan company officials say the practice was so ingrained that change was hard. Better communication is needed among managers, and production will not resume until the government gives its approval, they said. Thousands of cars will have to be re-inspected.

"We have formed an investigative team with a third party, which is working hard to find out what happened and why," Schillaci said, stressing that efforts were underway "to prevent a recurrence."

Nation

Flake's bow-out could mean rush of AZ GOP candidates

PHOENIX (AP)—U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake's decision to bow out of a re-election fight could spur a rush of other Republican candidates who hope to take on his only announced challenger in the 2018 Arizona primary.

The freshman senator's decision came after months of statements where he said he expected a tough primary and general election race but believed he could win. Behind the scenes, though, a drumbeat of polling showed him badly damaged by comments he made about President Donald Trump in a book he released over the summer and an ongoing battle with his party's leader that began before last year's election.

Flake was facing a challenge from former state Sen. Kelli Ward, who failed in her effort to take out Sen. John McCain last year but has gained traction this year. Last week, former Trump strategist Steve Bannon attended a fundraiser for her. Ward embraced the anti-establishment, anti-incumbent wing of the party driven by Trump with an assist from Bannon.

But mainstream Republicans in Arizona believe Ward cannot beat Rep. Krysten



Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., walks on to the Senate floor on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017, after announcing he won't seek re-election in 2018.

Sinema, a moderate who is running in her primary as the only well-known Democratic candidate. They have been searching instead for another candidate who can draw support from Trump populists to take on Flake, and his decision to step aside opens the door for those efforts. In the background, the White House has also been seeking another candidate.

His departure has raised the stakes even more for what is sure to be a bitter and expensive election battle next year in Arizona as the GOP fights to hold onto a seat and

the Democrats seek an opening to pick one up.

For months, the names of other potential GOP challengers have been floated, but none has entered the race. They include current state university regent Jay Heiler; former state GOP chairman Robert Graham; state Treasurer and 2016 Trump campaign chief financial officer Jeff DeWit; and Reps. Paul Gosar and Trent Franks. The other three GOP members of Arizona's House delegation could be wild cards—David Schweikert, Andy Biggs and Martha McSally.

Senate passes \$36.5B disaster aid bill; Trump signature next

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate passed a \$36.5 billion emergency aid measure Tuesday to refill disaster accounts, provide a much-needed cash infusion to Puerto Rico, and bail out the federal flood insurance program. The 82-17 vote sends the measure to the White House, where President Donald Trump is sure to sign it.

The measure provides \$18.7 billion to replenish the Federal Emergency Management Agency's rapidly dwindling accounts, and \$16 billion so the flood insurance program can keep paying claims.

It brings the total approved by Congress during this fall's hurricane season to more than \$50 billion—and that's before requests expected soon to cover damage to water and navigation projects, crops, public buildings and infrastructure, and to help homeowners without flood insurance rebuild.

"We're still waiting for all the data to come in from Texas to determine what the

need is," said Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Texas, whose Gulf Coast district was slammed by Hurricane Harvey. "We've already done the supplementals to keep the agencies going, but the long-term stuff—public assistance, FEMA and housing—are the big questions. We still haven't gotten all the numbers in from the state."

The White House said in a statement that the aid would "provide critical relief" from the recent natural disasters and Trump "remains steadfast in his commitment to providing the resources necessary to recover from the hurricanes and wildfires."

The measure fails to address demands from the Florida and Texas delegations for more funding now, but lawmakers representing those states have won assurances from GOP leaders like House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., White House budget director Mick Mulvaney and Trump himself that more help is in the works.

"I want to stress that much, much more will be needed in my state," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. "It's not over and done with, and it's not time to just move on."

The current measure would permit FEMA to allocate up to \$5 billion to assist Puerto Rico's central government and various municipalities through a cash crisis. Maria has largely shut down the island's economy and choked off tax revenues. The island's electric grid has been mostly destroyed and more than one-fourth of Puerto Rico's residents don't have potable running water.

Some conservatives, however, are becoming uneasy with the steadily growing cost of this year's spate of hurricanes.

"People here will say they have great compassion and want to help the people of Puerto Rico and the people of Texas and the people of Florida," said Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. "It is compassion with money that doesn't exist, money that's borrowed."

Asia

Funeral for Thai king a 5-day marathon of intense solemnity

BANGKOK (AP)—The exactly planned five-day funeral for Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej will be governed by strict protocols for how the public and media conduct themselves that are as much about honoring the monarch as they are about controlling a delicate political moment.

The detailed prescriptions for appearance and behavior show a particular concern for what images of Thailand and its royals are circulated during and after the elaborate ceremonies, which include Bhumibol's cremation on Thursday evening.

Thais are known for a highly emotional adulation of Bhumibol, which palace officials assiduously cultivated over his 70-year reign, but the funeral will be an intensely somber event, intentionally drained of possibilities for spontaneity.

Only state-controlled TV can provide a live broadcast, and police have prohibited screen-printing of pictures of Bhumibol and his magnificent golden-colored cremation pyre on T-shirts and the like.

The crowds of mourners who'll squeeze into Bangkok's historic royal quarter starting Wednesday will be a sea of black attire. They will be permitted to prostrate in silence when the royal procession passes, but must not shout "Long Live the King" or hold up cellphones to take selfies with the procession in the background.

Besides considerable security, an army of volunteers will be on hand to police behavior.

"If people act inappropriately, volunteers must be psycho-



In this Monday, Oct. 23, 2017, photo, customers are reflected in a mirror while buying black clothing in honor of the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej at a shopping mall in Bangkok, Thailand. **AP**

logical and speak to them with soft voices to avoid violence," said Sansern Kaewkumnerd, a spokesman for the military government in power since a 2014 coup.

Because of Thailand's tropical climate, umbrellas, hats and sunglasses will be allowed, but they must be black or similarly muted and taken off to show respect to the royal procession when it passes.

"The bigger issue going on here is that spontaneity means lack of control, and if there is anything the current regime wants to avoid, it is disorder or any evidence that they are not in control," said Tamara Loos, a professor of Southeast Asian studies at Cornell University.

The Oct. 13, 2016, death of the 88-year-old Bhumibol, known as Rama IX as the Chakri dynasty's ninth monarch, sparked a national outpouring of grief and a year of mourning.

The affection he inspired was in part the result of decades of work by palace officials to rebuild the prestige of

the monarchy, which had lost much of its influence after a 1932 coup ended centuries of absolute rule by Thai kings.

As a unifying symbol, Bhumibol earned genuine respect in a nation frequently rocked by political turmoil. But even the current military government's aggressive use of a draconian lese majeste law and online censorship has been unable to paper over divisions that find an outlet in criticism of the monarchy as the apex of a society in which the army has ousted elected governments twice since 2006.

"This long five-day ceremony is the precise moment when authorities would want to control any negative responses to King Bhumibol and the memory of his reign," said Loos.

"I could see real violence happening if there were protests against the monarchy during this moment because people are emotional," she said. "And nothing could be worse for Thailand now than to have bloodshed during the funeral ceremony."

ARSA, but the United Nations and others have said the response was disproportionate.

Most of world lacks real religious freedom, UN official says

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Three-quarters of the world's people live in countries that either restrict the right to religion or belief or have "a high level of social hostility involving religion or belief," the U.N. special investigator on religious rights said Tuesday. Ahmed Shaheed told the General Assembly's human rights committee that religious intolerance is prevalent globally—and rising around the world. He said over 70 countries currently have anti-blasphemy laws that can be used to suppress dissenting views, in violation of international human rights standards. Shaheed, a former politician and human rights expert from the Maldives, urged those countries to repeal the blasphemy laws. He also called for the repeal of all laws that undermine the exercise of the right to freedom of religion or belief—or discriminate against that right.

World

AP EXPLAINS:

Brazil's Congress to vote on trying president

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil's lower chamber of Congress is preparing to vote on whether to try President Michel Temer on charges of leading a criminal organization and obstructing justice. It's the second time Temer has faced such a vote amid a litany of scandals that have dogged his presidency since he replaced President Dilma Rousseff, who was impeached and removed from office last year. The charges against Temer stem from a wide-ranging corruption probe that has ensnared dozens of politicians and top businessmen over the last three years.

Here's a look at how Brazil got here and what comes next:

THE CHARGES

Prosecutors allege Brazil's government was effectively run like a cartel for years, with the political parties in power selling favors, votes and plum appointments to powerful businessmen. When Temer came to power last year, the indictment alleges, he took over the criminal organization, and his party has since received about \$190 million in bribes.

Temer is also accused of obstructing justice, in part by "instigating" the payment of

hush money to former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Eduardo Cunha, who is serving a 15-year sentence for corruption and is believed to have much dirt on fellow politicians. Temer has denied the charges and contends the chief prosecutor who led the investigation has a grudge against him.

THE VOTE

Because Temer is a sitting president, he cannot be tried unless two-thirds of lawmakers in the Chamber of Deputies accept the charges. If they do, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Rodrigo Maia, a Temer ally, would be the interim president during the trial. If the threshold is not reached, the charges against Temer would be suspended and he would continue with the rest of his term, which ends Dec. 31, 2018. Prosecutors could decide to try him once he leaves office. The house's debate could take several days.

TEMER'S CHANCES?

While Temer's popularity is dismal—last month his approval rating sank to 3 percent—he still has many allies in Congress, where he is known as a deft negotiator. Many lawmakers are facing corruption charges themselves and have been

quick to protect their own where possible. When he faced a bribery charge earlier this year, Temer convinced 263 deputies to support him, many more than the 171 he needed, with promises of political appointments and hundreds of millions of dollars in pork-barrel spending.

Still, all congressional seats will be up for election next year and some politicians may be nervous about supporting such a deeply unpopular leader.

WHAT DO BRAZILIANS THINK?

The scale of corruption has shocked even the most cynical Brazilians and decimated what faith they had in politicians. Many feel that Temer came to power illegitimately since he took over after his predecessor was impeached. Meanwhile, dozens of other politicians from across the spectrum are being investigated for corruption, underscoring a feeling among many Brazilians that the country is broken. That has raised the profile and popularity of many politicians who are considered "outsiders," from Sao Paulo's media mogul mayor to a far-right lawmaker who has promised a return morality to politics.

Potential showdown in eastern Syria over IS-held territory

BEIRUT (AP)—As U.S.-allied fighters hurtle down the eastern bank of the Euphrates River, a showdown could ensue between the U.S. and Russia, whose allies are racing to take over the same strategic oil-rich territory from the Islamic State group.

While the two sides will likely avoid a direct confrontation, the capture of Raqqa by the U.S.-backed forces, followed by their swift seizure of Syria's largest oil field from IS, has irked Damascus, which needs the oil to boost its flagging economy.

As the rival international coalitions compete to defeat the militants and snap up oil and gas fields, the Russian military has issued a stream of angry statements, accusing the U.S. of colluding with the Islamic State and other extremist groups in a bid to stymie the government's advances.

Both the U.S. and Russia have embedded special forces

with their respective partners and are supporting their advances with aggressive airstrikes. They have so far avoided any significant confrontations by maintaining talks and a hotline intended to prevent midair and ground incidents.

U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon, spokesman for the U.S.-led anti-IS coalition, said contacts with Russia were continuing to avoid friction on the ground around Syria's Al-Omar oil field, which was seized by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces on Sunday. But he indicated the coalition was prepared for any possibility.

"We are prepared to defend our partners if they are attacked, whether by ISIS fighters or by anyone else. We certainly don't want to come to that and we will continue to de-conflict with our Russian partners," he told The Associated Press on Tuesday. He suggested the SDF would

continue to march south into the town of Boukamal on the Iraqi border after consolidating their gains, fueling concerns of conflict between the two groups and their superpower sponsors.

The stakes are high and the two sides have exchanged accusations of firing on one another in the past.

As the Islamic State group sheds its hold on territory, Iranian- and Russia-backed Syrian government forces have been gaining ground on the western bank of the Euphrates River, while the U.S.-backed SDF is advancing on the eastern bank and has already seized a major natural gas field and other smaller oil fields in addition to Al-Omar.

The Al-Omar field, which before the war produced around 9,000 barrels a day, is a major prize for both sides, particularly the Syrian government whose coffers have been decimated by the country's war, now in its seventh year.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Bangladesh, Myanmar agree to halt the outflow of Rohingya

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Government officials from Bangladesh and Myanmar agreed Tuesday to halt the outflow of Rohingya Muslims to Bangladesh and enable the refugees to return home. The two sides met in Myanmar's capital, Naypyitaw, to discuss a crisis that has seen hundreds of thousands of Rohingya flee to Bangladesh over the past two months to escape violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state. "Myanmar affirms its commitment to immediately halt the outflow of Myanmar residents to Bangladesh, to restore normalcy in Rakhine to enable displaced Myanmar residents to return from Bangladesh at the earliest" possible time, the sides said in a joint statement. More than 600,000 Rohingya from northern Rakhine have fled to Bangladesh since Aug. 25, when Myanmar security forces began a scorched-earth campaign against Rohingya villages. Myanmar's government has said it was responding to attacks on police outposts by insurgents from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, or

Focus

BEIJING (AP)—Key members of China's Communist Party were determined at the national congress, which is held every five years and concluded this week.

On Wednesday, members of the party's highest body, the Politburo Standing Committee were announced, with President Xi Jinping returning for a second five-year term as party general secretary.

Premier Li Keqiang also remains in place as his No. 2, while the other five members are all newcomers taking the place of those who retired due to unwritten age limits.

Profiles of all seven committee members, listed by seniority:

XI JINPING

The head of the Communist Party since 2012 and state president since 2013, Xi has established himself as a fervent nationalist and China's most powerful leader since Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s.

Xi, 64, has worked to reassert the party's influence across all sectors, including in schools, the media and the private businesses that are driving China's economy. The son of a communist elder, Xi lived in a cave and performed hard labor during the Cultural Revolution before graduating from prestigious Tsinghua University and being appointed to a series of increasingly prominent provincial posts.

Xi's first five years in power have seen China adopt an increasingly assertive foreign policy, challenging the U.S. military's dominance in Asia. A strengthening of the domestic security services has led to what rights groups say is the worst crackdown on activists, political dissidents and the Uighur and Tibetan minority ethnic groups in decades.

With his new mandate, Xi will likely continue such measures while struggling to keep the economy growing fast enough to satisfy the demands of China's nearly 1.4 billion citizens and their building expectations for improving their quality of life. He's also formed a considerable cult of personality and has seen his personal political theory of "socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" enshrined in the party constitution.

"History looks kindly on those with resolve, with drive and ambition and with plenty of guts," Xi said in his speech at the opening of the party congress last week. "It won't wait for the hesitant, the apathetic or those shy of a challenge."

LI KEQIANG

Premier since 2013, Li had at one time been a candidate



Xi Jinping and other Key leaders of China's Communist Party

for the top job, but was ruled out in part because of his close connection with previous leader Hu Jintao. Party elders also were reportedly concerned that he might not be tough enough to ensure the party's hold on power and lead China into a more dominant global position.

Despite that, Li's return for a second term on the Politburo appears to display the party's approval of his administrative skills and ability to maintain a balance between different factions.

Li, 62, was born into a family of minor party officials but parlayed his intellectual skills into a seat at prestigious Peking University, where he earned a doctorate in law. He rose through the ranks to lead the Communist Youth League under Hu's tutelage, then was appointed China's youngest governor in 1998 at age 43.

He served as the top official in the provinces of Henan and Liaoning, where he emerged unscathed despite scandals including an AIDS outbreak and rampant organized crime. While nominally in charge of the economy and head of the Cabinet, Li has seen his role diminished under the rule of Xi, who has appointed himself the head of numerous party working groups that have eroded the power of the ministries and other formal offices.

Affable and English-speaking, Li is seen most often in public greeting foreign visitors and paying visits to institutes of learning and high-tech industries. "The people's livelihood is why we govern," Li said in his annual address to the national legislature in March. "At times, one needs

to place it on one's heart and carry it on one's shoulders."

LI ZHANSHU

As director of the party's General Office, Li effectively serves as Xi's chief of staff and is a constant presence at his side during state visits and other important occasions. The two men first worked together at the start of their careers as leading officials in adjacent rural townships in Hebei province outside Beijing.

While Xi took on new posts in the country's dynamic southeast, Li remained in Hebei, eventually rising to head the provincial Communist Youth League and hold other top posts. He was then transferred to Xi's native province of Shaanxi and then to Heilongjiang in the far northeast, where he was eventually named governor.

From there he served as party secretary for two years in the poor southern province of Guizhou before being called to Beijing in 2012 as Xi was being made head of the party and given a seat on the Politburo.

Unlike his predecessors, Li, 67, plays a prominent role in foreign affairs, and in 2015 was sent by Xi to Moscow to serve as his special representative in talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "I believe you and (President) Xi Jinping are leaders of two great nations, two great politicians who have significant influence in the world," Li was quoted as telling Putin.

WANG YANG

In his current role as vice premier, Wang's most high-profile responsibility is steering talks between the U.S. and

China on thorny trade issues. These range from cutting China's excess steel production to easing restrictions faced by foreign businesses trying to tap into the world's second-largest economy.

In these talks, Wang has sought to be charming but also firm, saying the sides need to cooperate and warning that "confrontation will immediately damage the interests of both."

When he was the top leader of Guangdong, China's wealthiest province, Wang's favorite political slogan was "free your thinking." Wang, 62, is widely seen as an economic reformer interested in promoting the private sector and the transformation of China's economy from one reliant on heavy industries to one that's driven by consumption and innovation.

Wang is considered closely aligned with now-retired President Hu Jintao; both are from the eastern province of Anhui. In 2011, as Guangdong party chief, Wang boosted his career when he presided over a compromise with protesters in the fishing village of Wukan, where residents had staged an uprising that made the village an internationally known symbol of grass-roots defiance against the party.

WANG HUNING

Long considered the brains behind Xi's governing philosophy, Wang has served as director of the party's Central Policy Research Office since 2002. First transferred to Beijing from an academic career in his native Shanghai, Wang loyally served Xi's predecessors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jin-

tao in an advisory role, helping define their political outlooks and accompanying them on foreign trips.

Wang and Xi formed a close relationship, and Wang is almost always at the president's side at important events, along with Li Zhanshu and top foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi. A prolific author and former champion college debater, Wang, 62, is considered a fierce advocate of centralized power and authoritarian rule.

"The legacy of Wang's neo-authoritarianism and its cousin, neo-conservatism, lives on today under the reign of Xi Jinping," wrote American China politics expert Jude Blanchette. "Look at the first five years of Xi Jinping's administration through the neo-authoritarian lens, and we see a consistent theme: clawing power back to Beijing."

ZHAO LEJI

Since 2012, Zhao has run the ruling party's Central Organization Department, which oversees promotions, making him a key figure in Xi's campaign to promote supporters and tighten control over the political hierarchy.

Zhao, 60, is seen as part of Xi's "Shaanxi Gang" of figures with family ties to the western province from which their families originally hail. Before moving to Beijing, Zhao was party secretary for Shaanxi and, before that, for the remote western province of Qinghai on the Tibetan plateau, where he was born and spent his early career.

Like Xi, Zhao is a second-generation party member, and unconfirmed accounts

New members of the Politburo Standing Committee, from left, Han Zheng, Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu, Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Wang Yang, Zhao Leji stand together at Beijing's Great Hall of the People Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017. The seven-member Standing Committee, the inner circle of Chinese political power, was paraded in front of assembled media on the first day following the end of the 19th Communist Party Congress.

say their fathers were friends. Zhao would be one of the youngest Standing Committee members ever and his age would allow him to serve a full 10 years before party tradition would require he step down. That would help to extend Xi's influence beyond the next leadership change in 2022, when he would be forced to step down as president under term limits.

"Zhao is well positioned on the policy front to carry out several of Xi's long-standing objectives: the alleviation of poverty and the strict enforcement of regulations on party officials," politics specialist Cheng Li wrote in a report for the Brookings Institution.

HAN ZHENG

A trained economist, Han worked his way up the political hierarchy of China's financial hub of Shanghai from a humble start in the chemical industry and at a rubber shoe factory.

He has spent his entire career in Shanghai, advancing over decades to become the city's mayor in 2003—then the youngest person to hold that position, at age 48—and its Communist Party chief in 2012. In 2007, he also served as deputy to Xi, then the city's party leader, before Xi moved to Beijing.

Han, 63, is known as a business-friendly politician able to rattle off statistics with practiced ease. During his tenure as mayor, Shanghai hosted the 2010 World Expo, which showcased China's rise as a modern industrial power.

But it was also on his watch that a New Year's Eve stampede on Shanghai's scenic Bund promenade killed 36 people at the end of 2014. Earlier in his career, Han emerged seemingly unscathed from a massive corruption scandal centering on Shanghai's pension fund that resulted in the purge of the city's former Communist Party chief Chen Liangyu. Chen was sentenced to 18 years in prison in 2008.

Washington's Brookings Institution said in a report this year that Han was known as "a competent, seasoned financial and economic technocrat" with "market friendly policy orientation in Shanghai."

Environment



TNS
Hurricane Irma flooded many coastal streets, including this one in Edgewater, which then drained into the city's stormwater system or into Biscayne Bay.

Hurricane sent foul water from the sewers into Biscayne Bay. What happens now?

By **JENNY STALETOVICH**
MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—If the flooding Hurricane Irma unleashed around Miami-Dade County looked bad onshore, scientists worry the damage to Biscayne Bay could be far more long-lasting, and difficult to fix.

During and after the storm, foul stormwater from the mainland and beaches poured into the bay, carrying pollution from oil-stained streets and leaky sewers to areas already struggling with seagrass die-offs and algae blooms. Ongoing testing by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Miami-Dade County has found chlorophyll, the pigment found in algae, elevated all over the bay.

At the troubled north end, where an ongoing die-off has killed half the beds, it spiked up to 10 times higher, a sign that increasing nutrients from pollution are feeding the seagrass-smothering algae.

Salinity levels have also plunged in places, leaving water nearly fresh. Oxygen concentrations needed to keep fish alive are also woefully low.

“The real question is what happens now,” said Chris Kelble, an oceanographer with NOAA’s Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Lab. “Does the chlorophyll and algal biomass keep getting high, or does it die back down to normal?”

While it’s not yet clear precisely what’s causing the problems, the likely culprit is the pollution, which over the years has caused the bay to grow less and less healthy, driving away fish and wiping out more

than 23 square miles of seagrass meadows.

“You’re reducing the resiliency of the bay to withstand these types of disturbances,” Kelble said.

The NOAA team and other scientists are in the midst of performing an ecosystem assessment and expect results in the next few weeks.

The bay, along with the mangrove forests, sawgrass marshes, pine rocklands and South Florida’s other natural features, evolved to withstand frequent poundings from hurricanes. Churning up bays can help flush them out — after Irma, Florida Bay brimmed with life — while heavy rain and freshwater swelling rivers can revive shorelines. But when all that water is polluted, consequences can be dire.

After hurricanes Katrina and Wilma lashed Florida in 2005, algae started appearing inshore where canals and groundwater flush into the bay. The algae, which block the light seagrass needs, eventually took over the beds in the north central parts of the bay. Then in 2013, acres of turtle grass that once grew in gin clear water in the secluded Tuttle basin began dying, raising concerns that storm run-off from increased flooding, coupled with rising salinity tied to sea rise, was worsening conditions.

Following Irma, monthly sampling by Miami-Dade County’s Division of Environmental Resources Management found the highest levels of chlorophyll in the secluded north basins and off Matheson Hammock, where a major canal drains into the bay. In a statement emailed Friday evening, the agency



TNS
In an effort to clean stormwater, Miami Beach filters out large objects at pump stations, shown here, before water is flushed into the bay. But the dirty water is not treated.

said it was analyzing the data.

But scientists working with other agencies say conditions are likely troubling.

NOAA has been sampling water monthly off South Florida since the 1990s and after hurricanes typically looks at issues such as algae blooms that might worsen. Earlier this month, they modified their sampling to look more closely at Irma’s impacts. In addition to water quality in Biscayne Bay, the assessment will examine seagrass and the condition of juvenile sportfish in the region’s lucrative fishing industry, coral near Cheeca Rocks and water quality in the Gables Waterway where leaking septic tanks have long caused problems.

While results are preliminary, so far they show chlorophyll elevated in all but the central parts of the bay.

The level in salinity near shore also dropped, Kelble said, which is not unexpected. But in places, water was nearly fresh.

Concentrated oxygen in water, necessary for marine life, was also dangerously low in places, said NOAA research scientist Nicole Millette, who is conducting a long-term study of the bay’s health. In some locations, levels were half of what’s needed for marine life and even lower in other places, she said.

“Basically, there’s low oxygen in the water in certain areas and that is another indication of poor water quality,” she said.

Kelble said scientists are still working on finding more precisely what’s causing the problems. The seagrass die-off in the Tuttle basin, coupled with the wider spread die-offs, could

also make conditions worse since seagrass help soak up the nutrients.

“When you have a die-off, you have a high potential to have algal blooms and larger algal blooms,” he said.

Stormwater typically contains high amounts of bacteria from leaking sewer and septic tanks. In 2015, after heavy pumping during king tides, water around Miami Beach had live fecal matter above state health limits, that included both human and dog waste. The finding triggered harsh criticism of the city’s pumping and prompted calls for more monitoring. But so far, only one station along the beach has been added, the Division of Environmental Resources Management said in Friday’s statement. Other locations are being considered, the statement said.

Florida International University geochemist Henry Briceno, who conducted the sampling and drew sharp criticism from Miami Beach officials, is now testing water provided by Kelble for signs of waste. He expects to have the results in a couple weeks.

But environmentalists fear the time for fixing the bay may be running out.

“The bay’s a mess. Let’s just call it cesspool, OK?” said Dan Kipnis, a retired fishing captain and chairman of the Miami Beach Marine and Waterfront Protection Authority.

“We already knew we were dying (in Tuttle basin) and the levels were high after the hurricane. You would expect any septic tanks would have flooded out and ended up in canals that ended up being pumped into the bay. You don’t have to be a scientist to understand that theory.”

Life & Style

Former production assistant alleges Weinstein sexual assault

NEW YORK (AP)—A former Weinstein Co. production assistant has come forward alleging that Harvey Weinstein sexually assaulted her after her repeated refusals.

In a press conference Tuesday in New York held by attorney Gloria Allred, Mimi Haley claimed Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her in 2006. Haley was in her 20s at the time, Allred said.

In graphic detail, Haley described Weinstein holding her down at his New York apartment in what she said appeared to be a child's bedroom.

"He was extremely persistent and physically overpowering," said Haley. "He then orally forced himself on me, while I was on my period. He even pulled my tampon out. I was mortified."

Weinstein representative Sallie Hofmeister said Tuesday, "Any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied by Mr. Weinstein."

Among the dozens—including Gwyneth Paltrow and Ashley Judd—who have claimed Weinstein sexually harassed them, several women have said Weinstein raped

O'Reilly scandal creates more headaches for Fox bid in UK

LONDON (AP)—Bill O'Reilly's sexual harassment scandal is causing more headaches for 21st Century Fox's 11.3 billion pound (\$14.8 billion) bid to take full control of U.K. cable network Sky Plc.

Revelations that U.S.-based Fox News renewed O'Reilly's contract after he settled a sexual harassment lawsuit for \$32 million came just a month after Britain's culture secretary asked competition regulators to review the takeover. Karen Bradley said one of the reasons for her decision was that Fox News' handling of a broader sexual harassment scandal raised concerns about corporate governance at Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox.

Soon after the New York Times broke the story about O'Reilly's contract renewal, a senior member of the British opposition Labour Party said he planned to ask the regulator to reject the takeover.

"More revelations about the corporate culture at 21st Century Fox," Deputy Leader Tom Watson tweeted. "It shouldn't be allowed to take over Sky."



Mimi Haley, left, appears at a news conference with her attorney Gloria Allred in New York, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017.

AP

them. Police in Los Angeles, New York and London are investigating rape allegations.

Actress Rose McGowan recently went public with her allegation that Weinstein raped

her after reaching a settlement with Weinstein in 1997. Italian filmmaker and actress Asia Argento and one-time aspiring actress Lucia Evans told The New Yorker that Weinstein

sexually assaulted them by forced oral sex.

Haley said she first met Weinstein at the London premiere of "The Aviator" in 2004. She encountered him again at the Cannes Film Festival in 2006. She expressed

interest in working on one of his films and he invited her to his hotel room and asked for a massage.

Haley refused, replying, "No sorry, I'm not a masseuse," and suggesting he instead contact hotel recep-

tion. More meetings followed, though, including an invitation from Weinstein to attend a fashion show in Paris. She worked as a production assistant on a Weinstein Co.-produced television series, though she and Allred declined to name the show.

The alleged incident occurred at Weinstein's Soho apartment after the movie producer sent a car to pick up Haley. She began crying Tuesday as she recounted what she thought would be a professional meeting.

"I would not have wanted anyone to do that to me, even if that person had been a romantic partner," said Haley. "I remember Harvey rolling over and saying, 'Don't you feel like we're so much closer now?'"

Allred, who is representing other women who have made allegations against Weinstein, declined to say whether Haley will file criminal or civil charges.

But Allred called on Weinstein to meet with her and make amends to the alleged victims.

"We need justice for these victims," said Allred. "Vague apologies are not enough. It's time for him to take meaningful actions."

Papers believed to be lost in Holocaust go on display in US

NEW YORK (AP)—The American public is getting a chance to view newly discovered Jewish documents that had been presumed destroyed during the Holocaust.

Ten documents brought over from Lithuania went on display Tuesday at New York's YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, which is working with the Lithuanian government to archive the 170,000-page collection.

The documents were hidden to protect them from the Nazis during World War II. They resurfaced during a move in 2016, and YIVO confirmed

their significance this year.

The wide-ranging collection includes manuscripts by famous Yiddish writers, religious writings, poetry and record books of shuls and yeshivas. There are letters by Sholem Aleichem, whose writings inspired the "Fiddler on the Roof" character Tevye, and a Yiddish postcard written by the artist Marc Chagall in 1935.

Another major cache of historical artifacts was found in the church in 1991.

"The troves discovered in Lithuania are the most important body of material

in Jewish history and culture to be unearthed in more than half a century, since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls," said David Fishman, professor of Jewish history at The Jewish Theological Seminary, who went to Lithuania in July to evaluate the documents.

They are "startlingly large in volume, and remarkably diverse in character and subject matter," Fishman said. "All of East European Jewish life passes through your eyes. It will take researchers many years to digest and analyze these documents."

Mark Wahlberg hopes God forgives him for 'Boogie Nights'

CHICAGO (AP)—Mark Wahlberg hopes God will forgive him for his turn as a porn star in the 1997 film "Boogie Nights."

Wahlberg told the Chicago Tribune ahead of an event with Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich on Friday that he hopes "that God is a movie fan and also forgiving" because he says he's made "some poor choices" in the past. Wahlberg listed "Boogie Nights" when

asked if he has prayed for forgiveness for any of his movies.

"Boogie Nights" follows the career of Wahlberg's character Dirk Diggler through the porn industry in the 1970s and 1980s.

Wahlberg also touched on his troubled youth. Wahlberg spent time in jail for a racially motivated attack in 1988, when he was 16.

He told the Tribune that "the bad decisions" of his past may make it easier for youths deal-

ing with violent crime in Chicago to relate to how he turned his life around.

"I feel remorse when I've made mistakes," he later told the audience at the event. "If I could go back and change a lot of things that I did, I would. I look for ways to give back."

Wahlberg has talked frequently about his Catholic faith and hosted a Philadelphia event honoring Pope Francis during his U.S. visit in 2015.

You own it: New Zealand party told to pay for Eminem rip-off

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—In a case that pitted Eminem's publisher against New Zealand's main conservative political party, a judge said the party breached copyright by using a song similar to the Detroit rapper's "Lose Yourself" in its campaign ads.

High Court Judge Helen Cull on Wednesday ordered the National Party to pay the publisher 600,000 New Zealand dollars (\$415,000) plus interest.

The National Party ran a television ad that used the song "Eminem Esque" 186 times during its successful 2014 election campaign before pulling the ad off the air. Publisher Eight Mile Style sued, saying the track ripped off the rapper's acclaimed 2002 hit.

The case could have broader implications for other organizations that use so-called "sound-alike" tracks sold by



commercial operators.

Cull ruled the difference between the two songs was minimal and "Eminem Esque" reproduced the essence of "Lose Yourself." She said it sounded like a copy and was a copy.

She said it was no coincidence the composer of "Eminem Esque" had the music to "Lose Yourself" in front of him when he wrote his song.

Cull said Eminem's own lyrics in the song were ironic: "And

prophetically so rapped Eminem: You better lose yourself in the music, the moment. You own it, you better never let it go."

The judge based the amount of the award on a hypothetical license fee that the party might

^{AP}
In this May 2, 2017, file photo, music composer Jeff Bass leaves a courtroom in Wellington, New Zealand.

have paid to use the song. She noted that Eight Mile Style rarely grants permission to use "Lose Yourself" in advertising.

Cull stopped short of awarding additional damages, saying the party had only used the song after receiving professional advice that it could do so, and hadn't acted recklessly.

The National Party said in a statement it was disappointed

with the ruling.

"We purchased the piece of production music from a reputable Australian-based music production library, who had purchased it from a U.S. supplier," said National Party President Peter Goodfellow.

He said the party was considering its next steps and already had lodged a claim against the suppliers and licensors of the "Eminem Esque" track.

The ruling comes at a difficult time for the conservative party, which just lost the 2017 election to a coalition headed by the liberal Labour Party.

Five ex-presidents' hurricane concert raises additional \$2.6M

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — A concert attended by the five living former presidents to benefit victims of hurricanes has raised about \$2.6 million in addition to \$31 million collected before it took place.

The "Deep from the Heart" concert Saturday at Texas A&M University benefited victims of hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Barack Obama, George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clin-

ton and Jimmy Carter called for donations to the One America Appeal campaign that had already raised \$31 million.

More than 6.5 million online viewers saw the concert featuring country music band Alabama, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer 'Soul Man' Sam Moore, gospel legend Yolanda Adams and Texas musicians Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen. Grammy award winner Lady Gaga made a surprise appearance.

Billy Joel announces birth of third daughter, Remy Anne

NEW YORK (AP) — The Piano Man is now a father of three.

Billy Joel says his third daughter, Remy Anne Joel, was born Sunday night at New York University hospital. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces (3.2 kilograms).

A post on the singer's website includes a picture of a smiling Joel holding the baby.

It's the second daughter for the 68-year-old Joel and his 35-year-old wife, Alexis. The couple also has a 2-year-old named Della Rose.

The website says Joel's eldest daughter, 31-year-old Alexa Ray Joel, was at her father's side for the delivery.

The post says "Alexis and Remy are doing well and everyone is thrilled."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'If I Stay' author Gayle Forman has new novel out in March

NEW YORK (AP)—The author of the best-selling young adult novel "If I Stay" has a new book coming in March. Viking told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Gayle Forman's novel is called "I Have Lost My Way." It's the story of three alienated teens and what happens when they encounter each other in Central Park. Forman said in a statement that she had abandoned seven attempted books before building upon a phrase, "I have lost my way," that kept popping up in her mind. "If I Stay," published in 2009, was later adapted into a feature film starring Chloe Grace Moretz, Mireille

Enos and Jamie Blackley. Her other books include "Where She Went," "I Was Here" and "Leave Me."

Producer sentenced for bilking investors with fake play

NEW YORK (AP)—A Broadway producer who admitted scamming friends and others into investing hundreds of thousands of dollars into a nonexistent play about opera star Kathleen Battle has been sentenced to six months in jail. Prosecutors say 42-year-old Roland Scahill scammed at least nine people out of more than \$200,000 to fund the nonexistent show. He was sentenced Tuesday in Manhattan Supreme Court to jail time as well as five years of

probation when he gets out. He also was ordered to continue psychiatric treatment. Scahill has paid back about \$90,000 in restitution as part of a plea deal. He had claimed that Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o was going to star in the play and that it would be screened by Netflix. Prosecutors say both of those claims were false.

Saunders, Ellsberg among Carnegie Medal finalists

NEW YORK (AP)—Man Booker Prize winner George Saunders, National Book Award finalist Jesmyn Ward and Daniel Ellsberg of "The Pentagon Papers" fame are in the running for prizes handed out by the American

Library Association. The association announced fiction and nonfiction nominees on Wednesday for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence. The winners, each of whom will receive \$5,000, will be revealed in February during the ALA's annual midwinter meeting. In fiction, Jennifer Egan has been cited for "Manhattan Beach," Ward for "Sing, Unburied, Sing" and Saunders for "Lincoln in the Bardo," winner of the Booker last week. The non-fiction finalists are Ellsberg's "The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner," David Grann's "Killers of the Flower Moon" and Sherman Alexie's memoir "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me."

Little girl's many boyfriends raise a red flag for mom

DEAR ABBY: I am single and the mother of a 7-year-old girl. When she was 4, I decided there would be no parade of guys coming in and out of my life, or any at all. I have barely dated, and the few times I have gone out, I never talked about it around her.

Over the last two or three years, she has come home every few weeks or months with a new boy she likes. I never say much except that she's not allowed to have a boyfriend. She recently swore her grandfather to secrecy and told him she had a boyfriend.

Is this normal? Should I be concerned that she likes a new boy every few weeks, or that she didn't tell me she had a boyfriend even though I don't punish her for being honest? I'm concerned about her being interested in boys at too young an age.

POSSIBLY PRUDE MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: Having a "boyfriend" at the age of 7 means something different than it does to a teenager or an adult. When your daughter tried to confide in you that she liked someone, you cut her off by telling her it "wasn't allowed." If you had let her confide in you, she wouldn't have found the need to do it with her grandfather. I suggest you open up the lines of communication now, before it's too late.

DEAR ABBY: Taking care of a loved one who has Alzheimer's is difficult. My boyfriend came up with a brilliant idea to help me maintain my own space (the basement in the family home) and still keep track of my mom upstairs. A baby monitor! I could hear everything going on upstairs, at night especially, and it made a challenging time much easier.

Both of my parents had Alzheimer's disease, and I wish I had known about the monitor when Dad was still alive. I hope this will help others to be more effective caregivers without compromising their own lives.

MISSING MOM AND DAD IN MONTANA

DEAR MISSING: So do I, because placing a baby monitor in the room of a sick person of any age is a good idea in case the person needs assistance. I have heard of this being done not only with Alzheimer's patients but also with people in hospice programs whose caregivers can't be with them every minute. Thank you for writing.

DEAR ABBY: I need suggestions on what to do to get a close family member to go out to lunch with me. I have offered to pay for lunch, let him pick the restaurant and do the driving. ("Nope. Can't go. Got to check with my wife. No.")

I am in my late 80s, and he's in his late 70s. Someday it will

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



be too late. What do you suggest?

LOOKING TO LUNCH IN THE EAST

DEAR LOOKING TO LUNCH: Try this. Invite his wife to come to lunch with the two of you. However, if that doesn't work, forget about trying to get him to go because he may be less eager to see you than you are to see him.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

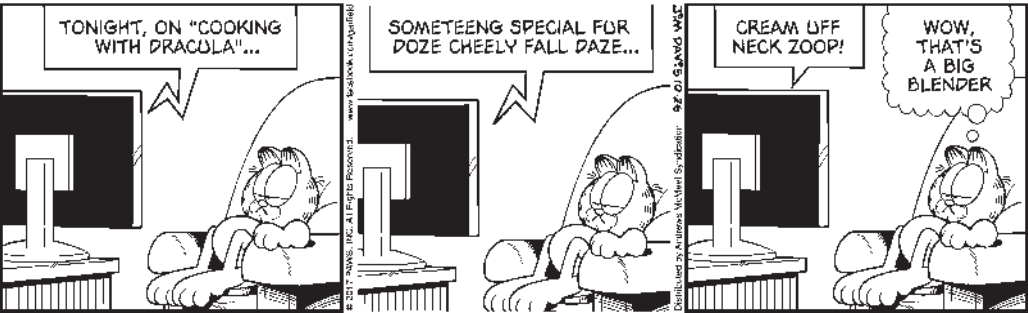
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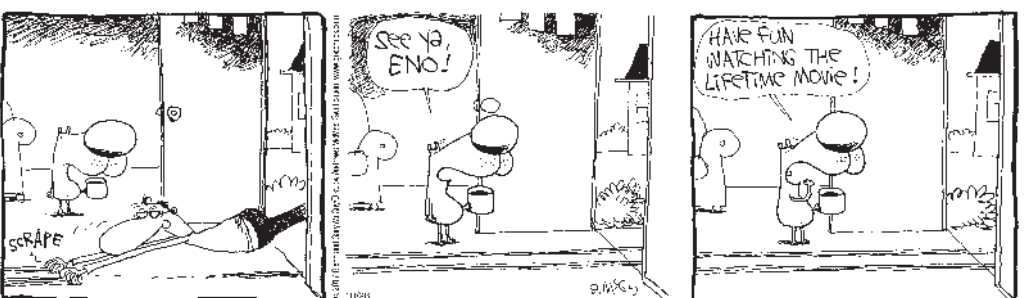
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 June honorees

5 Wood-shaping tool

8 Saharan

12 New York canal

13 Pod dweller

14 Andean land

15 Out of the storm

16 Zing

17 Apple tablet

18 Dinosaur remnant

20 Backs of boats

22 Devoured

23 Here, in Dijon

24 From the start

27 Personal bugaboo

32 State VIP

33 Nest egg acronym

34 Compete

35 Symbol of stability

38 Navy commando

DOWN

1 Hearing-impaired

2 Folk-singer

3 Conks out

4 Play-ground fixture

5 All-American dessert

6 Ruby or Sandra

7 Micro-waves

8 Each

9 Temporary pardon

10 Persia, today

11 Clothing player

19 Tagged

21 Bit of advice

24 Get older

25 Calendar abbr.

26 Ultimate

28 Before

29 Reply sassily

30 By way of

31 Snaky fish

36 Haystack find

37 Barbie's companion

38 Nap

41 Either mate

42 Fall into a chair

43 Bern's river

44 "Toodlee-oo!"

46 Melville captain

47 Poet

48 Sandburg

48 Ballyhoo

51 Melody

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Seth MacFarlane, 44; Keith Urban, 50; Cary Elwes, 55; Dylan McDermott, 56.

Happy Birthday: Share your feelings and lay out a plan that includes friends and siblings. Working alongside people who challenge you mentally and inspire you creatively will encourage you to follow through with unique and diverse plans. Travel and educational pursuits will give you experiences that will help you surpass your expectations. Socializing, creativity and children are featured this year. Your numbers are 3, 14, 17, 23, 31, 40, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen carefully to what's being said or asked of you. Take time to digest the information and consider your options before you make a decision. Acting too quickly will cause unnecessary stress. Take time out to relax and reevaluate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Partnerships should be handled carefully. Distance yourself from unpredictable situations or people who can threaten your reputation, job or future. Speaking from the heart is your best course of action, but if that fails, prepare to walk away.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Learn and update your qualifications in order to get ahead. Take better care of your physical health. Don't let your emotions lead to a mistake that can cause injury or illness. Children or someone close to you will cause you concern.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make alterations for the right reasons. Refuse to get involved in an impulsive act that

won't benefit you but can cost you a friendship or a financial loss. If you want to invest, put your money, time and effort into personal gain.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful how you handle your professional responsibilities. Work on your own if possible. Disagreements will leave you tired and confused. Consider offers or opportunities along with the chance to make a change in your status, reputation or position.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Participate in events that will bring you in touch with people who share your beliefs and have similar life goals. Sharing ideas will bring you closer to someone who can broaden your outlook and help you discover new possibilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Personal problems will prevail at home. Take care of your responsibilities without being asked. Don't give anyone a reason to complain or to pick on you. A decision followed by a change to an important relationship is apparent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel, meetings and gathering information that can help you get ahead are featured. Your unique way of presenting what you have to offer will separate you from competition. Interacting with peers is highlighted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Step up and do what has to be done. Take charge and show initiative. Your ability to adjust to whatever develops will give you the edge when helping others. Refuse to let an emotional matter stifle your ability to get things done.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your own personal imprint on whatever you pursue. You'll be viewed as an entrepreneur and go-to person when collaborating with others. Explore new opportunities and express your opinions openly. Protect against injury and emotional arguments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do your research before you take a financial gamble. Moderation and leaning toward a simpler lifestyle will be in your best interest. Uncertainty and temptation will put you in a precarious position. Focus on personal growth and achieving better health.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be rewarded if you volunteer for something that requires you to use your skills in diverse ways. What you gain will help you reconstruct the way you move forward and how you take care of your health.

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, detailed and progressive. You are compassionate and innovative. To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

10-26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	2	1	4	9	6	5	7	3
6	7	9	5	3	1	2	8	4
3	4	5	7	2	8	6	1	9
5	9	2	6	1	7	3	4	8
7	8	6	3	4	2	9	5	1
4	1	3	8	5	9	7	6	2
9	6	4	2	8	5	1	3	7
1	5	8	9	7	3	4	2	6
2	3	7	1	6	4	8	9	5

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TAX-FREE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS Solution: 4 letters

LONG TERM ANNUAL C
A I CUMULATIVE OF A
S E M O C N I O S U L P R U S
U Y T I R U C E S M R O F N H
O N O I T A L F N I W D S D T
P E T E S S A V E I E T Y S W
S S T I N V E S T S N K S O
N O N D N P E H U A N E N H R
O P U A E S D N R E S L A O G
I R O T O R U R R A N D B R S
T U C E A L A R B B I L T T S
U P C W N W U H E N A I S T D
L L A S K C O T S D G U R E N
O L A I C N A N I F R B I R O
S A D V I S O R S T A X F M B

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Yesterday's Answer: Shine Box

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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Commonwealth Zoning Board JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Zoning Office is seeking a qualified applicant for the following position. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1. Zoning Enforcement Tech (1)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Conduct field surveys; Collect land use information; Prepare and serve notices of violation and other compliance documents; Write follow-up enforcement notices; Maintain enforcement database and files; Prepare enforcement reports, Perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

A minimum of 2 years background in the following:

Any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health & safety, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; and ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary will start at \$25,000. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to the Zoning Enforcement Chief. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be picked up from the Zoning Office or the Office of Personnel Management. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please send submittals to: E-mail: Yubert.Alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp or to the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

**The deadline to receive applications and all requirements
is Monday, November 6, 2017 at 4:30pm.**

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Kershaw, Dodgers beat Astros in hot opener

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No sweat, Clayton Kershaw.

Changing jerseys to beat the 103-degree heat, the Dodgers ace with a checkered playoff history delivered a signature performance, pitching Los Angeles past the Houston Astros 3-1 Tuesday night in the World Series opener.

Boosted by Justin Turner's tiebreaking, two-run homer in the sixth inning off Dallas Keuchel, Kershaw was in complete control against the highest-scoring team in the majors this season.

"Definitely feels good to say it was the World Series, and it feels good to say we're 1-0," Kershaw said.

The left-hander had waited his whole career for this moment. And once he took the mound in his Series debut, he lived up every bit to the legacy of Sandy Koufax, Orel Hershiser and the greatest of Dodgers hurlers.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner struck out 11, gave up just three hits and walked none over seven innings, featuring a sharp breaking ball that often left Houston batters taking awkward swings. His lone blemish was a home run by Alex Bregman in the fourth that made it 1-all. No matter, with Koufax in the house, Kershaw did his pal proud.

"He was as good as advertised," Keuchel said.

A sweltering, pulsating crowd at Dodger Stadium dotted with Hollywood A-listers was filled with Kershaw jerseys, and he drew loud cheers all evening.

Kershaw got one more ovation when he walked through a corridor to a postgame interview. There, fans applauded a final time.

"I felt good. It's a tough lineup over there," Kershaw said. "The way Keuchel was throwing it was up and down a lot, which was good. It got us into a rhythm a little bit.

Stanton once again thrust into Cardinals' starting role

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Drew Stanton has been here before. Carson Palmer goes down with a serious injury and Stanton steps in as his backup.

Stanton's career statistics are unspectacular. His win-loss record, not so bad.

In his four seasons with the Cardinals, Stanton is 6-3 as a starter.

"That's the only one that matters to me," Stanton said. "I know my career stats are probably horrible ... but I think that (the win-loss record) is the ultimate measure of a quarterback, especially as a backup. That's something I take pride in is to come in and



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws during the first inning of Game 1 of baseball's World Series against the Houston Astros Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017, in Los Angeles.

I think for me personally, it helped out a lot."

Brandon Morrow worked a perfect eighth and Kenley Jansen breezed through the Astros in the ninth for a save in a combined three-hitter. The Dodgers' dominant relievers have tossed 25 straight scoreless innings this postseason.

With both aces throwing well, the opener zipped by in 2 hours, 28 minutes -- fastest in the World Series since Game 4 in 1992 between Toronto and Atlanta. Jimmy Key and the Blue Jays won that one 2-1 in 2:21.

It certainly was unusual for this postseason, when games had been averaging 3 hours, 32 minutes -- up 18 minutes from two years ago.

Chris Taylor gave the Dodgers an immediate jolt in their first Series game since 1988 when he hit a no-doubt home

run on Keuchel's very first pitch. Taylor was co-MVP of the NL Championship Series with Turner, and they both kept swinging away against the Astros.

"Just getting that momentum early is huge," Kershaw said. "And let the crowd kind of feed off that. It was definitely as good a start as we could have hoped for."

The loss left the Astros still without a single World Series win in their 56-season history. In their only other Series appearance, they were swept by the White Sox in 2005.

Game 2 is Wednesday evening, with AL Championship Series MVP Justin Verlander starting against Dodgers lefty Rich Hill.

Kershaw has almost every imaginable individual accolade on his resume -- five ERA

titles, an MVP trophy, a no-hitter and seven All-Star selections—but also was dogged by a shaky October past.

He began this outing in the twilight with a 6-7 career playoff record and an unsightly 4.40 ERA. He improved to 3-0 in four starts this postseason.

"I don't know if you can decipher between a postseason start and a World Series start. The adrenaline, I feel like every game is so much more magnified," Kershaw said.

A Series opener that served as a showcase for several of the game's best young hitters—Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa, Cody Bellinger and more—instead was dominated by Kershaw.

"Couldn't be happier for him," Turner said.

Facing a team that had the fewest strikeouts in the majors this year, Kershaw fanned more Houston hitters than any starter this season. And he helped the Dodgers, who led

the majors with 104 wins and a \$240 million payroll, improve to 8-1 this postseason.

"Tonight is about Kershaw," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said.

It was 1-all when Taylor drew a two-out walk in the sixth. Turner followed with his drive off the bearded Keuchel.

"Keuchel was really good tonight. He was just a pitch

or two less than Kershaw," Hinch said.

While it was sticky, the conditions didn't seem to affect either side.

Kershaw, as always, wore his bright blue Dodgers jacket walking to the bullpen to get ready.

"It was hot warming up. But once the game started, the sun went down, it didn't feel that hot," Kershaw said.

Astros road struggles continue

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If the Astros are going to deliver Houston its first World Series title the team will need to figure out how to score runs on the road, something it has struggled to do all postseason long.

The Los Angeles Dodgers have home field advantage in the best-of-seven series so the road-weary Astros are going to need to win at least one game outside of the confines of Minute Maid Park to take the crown.

The Astros offense was not up to the task during their 3-1 Game 1 loss on Tuesday, mustering just three hits and barely putting pressure on the Dodgers pitchers.

Astros manager A.J. Hinch downplayed the team's road struggles during a postgame press conference, instead pointing to the sensational performance by Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, who struck out 11 and walked none over seven solid innings.

"Tonight is about Kershaw," he said when asked about the Astros' inability to score runs on the road.

"They had two big swings, we had one. It's no more complicated than that."

While a two-run blast by Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner did prove the difference on Tuesday, the offensive numbers for the Astros this postseason are not pretty.

While the team is a perfect 6-0 at home, they are just 1-4 on the road, where they have plated an average of just 2.6 runs.

They lost all three games they played at Yankees Stadium during the American League Championship series and needed a Game Seven win in Houston to advance to the Fall Classic.

To make matters worse, their pitchers have also struggled on the road, posting an ugly 7.24 ERA during away games compared to a 1.17 ERA at home.

The good news for the Astros is they will have ace Justin Verlander on the mound on Wednesday.

The hard throwing right-hander is 4-0 with a 1.46 ERA in the postseason this year.

"It's a tough lead when you go up against Kershaw," Hinch said. "But it's going to be a tough lead when you go against Verlander."

LeBron scores 34 as point guard, leads Cavs over Bulls



CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cavaliers' lineups are changing daily. Their defense is a mess, their slow starts are puzzling and the starting point guard is hurt.

Cleveland's got some problems.

LeBron James minimizes them all.

Making a rare start at point guard, James scored 34 points as the Cavs, using another early season lineup, awakened after a sluggish first half and beat the Chicago Bulls, 119-112, on Tuesday night.

Although he often handles the ball and runs Cleveland's offense, James had not officially been listed as a guard since 2012 with Miami. The superstar added 13 assists, including a no-look, behind-the-back dish to Jae Crowder for a 3-pointer during Cleveland's 15-3 spurt in the third quarter.

The Bulls did all they could. James just did more.

"You're playing against the best player on the planet," Chicago coach Fred Hoiberg said.

Kevin Love had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade, who asked Cavs coach Tyronn Lue to take him out of the starting lineup, came off the bench and added 11 points.

Justin Holiday scored 25 and rookie Lauri Markkanen 19 for Chicago, which made a season-high 17 3-pointers. The 7-foot Markkanen became the first player in NBA history to make 10 3-pointers in his first three career games.

Cleveland trailed 92-91 entering the fourth before Love dropped a 3 and Kyle Korver made a pair of 3s in 33 seconds. Chicago closed within six in the final two minutes, but the Cavs came up with two offensive rebounds to reset the shot clock before James drove past Markkanen for a left-handed layup to make it 118-110.

It was vintage James, perhaps the only player in the game who can play either

guard spot, both forward positions and center.

It's how he was raised.

"Ever since I was a kid I've always learned every position on the floor," he said. "The point guard, shooting guard, small forward, power forward and center. And know all the plays, what they're doing and reads. Coach slides me to the 1, I know every set. If he slides me to the 5, I know the 5. I know the 4. I know the 3. I know the 2."

"I know every single play in every single position, so it makes the job a lot easier for me because I know where I should be and what my teammates should do."

The Cavs were coming off an embarrassing loss to Orlando and their defense was atrocious in the first half, when the Bulls made 12 3-pointers and scored 65 points—12 less than in their previous game.

Lue has been experimenting with lineups and combinations because of new players and injuries. He trotted out another new starting five—his third in three games—against the Bulls, moving James to the point, and starting Tristan Thompson at center so Love wouldn't have to guard 7-foot-1 Robin Lopez the entire game.

But Cleveland's starters let Chicago control things early. Dropping uncontested 3-pointers, the Bulls opened a 14-point lead before the second group—led by Wade and Jeff Green—got the Cavs back in it. Green finished with 16 points.

Clippers 102, Jazz 84

In Los Angeles, the last time Utah ventured to Los Angeles, the Jazz stunned the Clippers in Game 7 of their first-round playoff series.

A rematch was hardly foremost on either team's minds when they met back at Staples Center, since both have nine new players this season.

This time the Clippers came out on top, remaining unbeaten with a victory on Tuesday.

"They beat us in the play-



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, right, drives past Chicago Bulls' Paul Zipser in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017, in Cleveland.

Enes Kanter led New York with 16 points and 19 rebounds. But he got most of them in a first half in as his team struggled mightily from the field. The Knicks scored the first basket of the night, but never led again. They shot just 42 percent and went 1 of 12 from the 3-point line.

Trail Blazers 103, Pelicans 93

In Portland, the Trail Blazers preserved their streak with a late push.

CJ McCollum scored 16 of his 23 points in the final quarter and Portland won its NBA-record 17th straight home opener with a victory over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Damian Lillard and Evan Turner each added 13 points for Portland, which is off to a 3-1 start for the first time since the 2011-12 season.

"We just tried to be aggressive, tried to push the tempo a little bit more and we got some stops, a lot of stops in the second half," McCollum said. "We just wanted to make something happen. We were a little sluggish offensively, our flow wasn't as good as we would like it to be. But luckily we were able to get a win."

DeMarcus Cousins had 39 points and 13 rebounds for his fourth straight double-double to start the season.

Magic 125, Nets 121

In Orlando, Aaron Gordon scored a career-high 41 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with 35 seconds remaining, and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead Orlando over Brooklyn.

Evan Fournier added 28 points in game that went back and forth late in the fourth quarter. He finished the scoring with two free throws with 15.5 seconds to play.

D'Angelo Russell scored 27 points for the Nets, while DeMarre Carroll had 19 and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson 18.

Celtics 110, Knicks 89

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 23 points, Jayson Tatum added 22 and Boston beat New York.

Kyrie Irving added 20 points and seven assists. Al Horford finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

After dropping their first two games to open the season, the Celtics have won two straight. The Knicks remain winless through their first three games.

offs. For the guys that were here tonight, that was something that was in the back of our minds," said Clippers center DeAndre Jordan. "For the guys that weren't here, we wanted to come out and see the tone against a really good defensive team that makes you guard them the whole shot clock."

All five starters scored in double figures for the Clippers, led by Blake Griffin's 22

points. Patrick Beverley added 19 points, but turned the ball over seven times.

The Jazz (2-2) got 19 points from rookie guard Donovan Mitchell, but no one else scored more than 12.

The Clippers went on a 19-2 run to seemingly take command, pushing their lead to as many as 21 points.

But sparked by Mitchell and reserves, Utah cut the lead to 82-80 with 4:28 to play.

"We dug ourselves a hole, but I thought we did a good job of fighting back in the game," said Utah coach Quin Snyder.

Pacers 130, Timberwolves 107

In Minneapolis, Victor Oladipo scored 28 points and Cory Joseph added 21 to lead hot-shooting Indiana past Minnesota.

Darren Collison had 15 points and 16 assists, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 19 points and Domantas Sabonis had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers, who shot 67 percent from the floor.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves, who came out flat after a thrilling last-second win at Oklahoma City on Sunday.

Minnesota was missing forward Jimmy Butler, who sat out with an upper respiratory infection. Shabazz Muhammad took Butler's spot in the starting lineup, and he contributed to Minnesota's slow start, going 1-for-5 from the floor and missing two free throws in the first quarter.

Davis leaves Portland game with left knee injury

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Anthony Davis left the Pelicans' game against the Trail Blazers on Tuesday night with a left knee injury.

Davis left for the locker room midway through the first quarter. It appeared that he bumped knees with Blazers guard Damian Lillard.

Davis, in his sixth NBA season, had 27 points and 17 rebounds in New Orleans' 119-112 victory over the Lakers in Los Angeles on Sunday. He had a basket and a rebound through the first 5

minutes against the Blazers.

Davis averaged a career-best 28 points and 11.8 rebounds last season with the Pelicans.

In Atlanta, Hawks guard/forward DeAndre' Bembry is expected to miss four to six weeks after having surgery to repair his fractured right wrist.

The Hawks say the surgery was performed on Tuesday at the Emory Orthopaedics & Spine Center in Atlanta.

Bembry suffered the injury in the season-opening win at

Dallas last Wednesday.

Bembry averaged 2.7 points in 38 games, including one start, as a rookie last season and was targeted for a bigger role on the rebuilding Hawks. He scored six points in 18 minutes off the bench before suffering the injury against the Mavericks.

In Denver, Nuggets forward Juancho Hernangomez will be sidelined for an undetermined amount of time because of mononucleosis.

Hernangomez didn't travel with the Nuggets as they kick

off a four-game trip in Charlotte on Wednesday. Hernangomez will remain in Denver "as part of his recovery," the team announced.

The 22-year-old Hernangomez sat out Monday's 109-104 loss to Washington with what was listed as an illness. He's played a total of 13 minutes in two games and has yet to score.

Hernangomez was taken with the No. 15 pick in the 2016 draft. He averaged 4.9 points and 3.0 rebounds last season.

NMI athletes officially listed for Mini Games

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Names of the members of the CNMI's athletics, 3x3 men's basketball, and weightlifting teams were included on the official entry list to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

Zarinae Sapong and Beouch

Ngirchongor, and Jamie Pangelinan will be representing Team Marianas in athletics, while Douglas Schmidt Jr., Dan Barcinas, Preston Basa, and Jack Lizama Jr. are suiting up for the CNMI's 3x3 men's basketball team. Angel San Nicolas, Leonardo Apelo Jr., David Barnhouse Jr., Raymond Santos, and Joseph



Mini Games fundraiser for NMI men's 3x3 team

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Mariana Islands Basketball Federation team will be holding a fundraising tournament next month with its proceeds going to the CNMI national men's 3x3 basketball team that will compete in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu later this year.

The fundraising tournament will run from Nov. 2 to 5 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and will have competitions in the following age groups, Under 15 and U18 in the boys' and girls' divisions, and men's and women's open and masters (men's). Registration fee is \$50 per team.

The 3x3 basketball event will be making its debut in the Pacific Mini Games after the International Olympic Committee added the program to the Summer Games, which will be played for the first time in Tokyo 2020. Port Vila will be hosting the 10th edition of the quadrennial sporting event, a scaled down version of the Pacific Games, from Dec. 4 to 15. More than 2,000 athletes and of-

ficials are expected to attend the close to two-week competition.

MIBF secretary general Elias Rangamar said the men's 3x3 team is short in funds for the trip to Vanuatu.

"The [MIBF] in an effort to secure the necessary funding for this trip, will be organizing a 3x3 basketball tournament and dinner show to help defray some of the costs for the trip," added Rangamar.

He is inviting teams that competed in the national qualifiers and all basketball fans to support the tournament.

"Your assistance will help our efforts to keep our youths and community's energy channeled in a positive direction, promoting healthy lifestyles through sports competitions."

Rangamar said players who have not registered on 3x3planet.com must sign up by creating a profile. The deadline for payment of the \$50 registration fee is on Oct. 31, Tuesday.

For more information, contact Rangamar at 2876347 and at eli_rang@yahoo.com or Preston Basa at 9892516 and pbasa03@gmail.com.



Tudela are Commonwealth's entries to the weightlifting competition of the quadrennial meet that will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from Dec. 4 to 15.

Sapong and Ngirchongor have previously donned the CNMI's national colors in

regional athletics events like the Micronesian Games and Pacific Games, and international games organized by the International Association of Athletics Federations. She is also the reigning record holder in the 200m run in Micronesia, posting 27.87 seconds

during the 2016 Micronesian Athletics Championships in Pohnpei where she also led the CNMI women's 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams to bronze medal finishes. Ngirchongor, meanwhile, won the gold in the men's 400m run and 400m hurdles in the 2014 Microne-

win against Kanoa.

Louie Calayag and Joshua De Leon logged two goals each to lift Matansa to its fifth win. Ronnel Ocanada, Brandon Delos Reyes, and Jether Yobech contributed one goal apiece, while Kanoa averted a shutout loss—thanks to Ian Karl Maniago's shot.

insurance in the 62nd minute for a hat trick.

Meanwhile, TanHoldings improved its record to 2-2-2 for fourth place in the team standings after edging Kanoa, 2-1. Taka Borja and Oliver Fajardo delivered the goals for TanHoldings, while Brian Lubao scored for Kanoa.

BOYS U17 MP United 16, Paire 0

MP United kept the lead in the division after crushing Paire at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Dai Podziewski, Sunjoon Tenorio, and Skyler Poon registered three goals apiece for MP United, which had four other players finding the back of the net in their lopsided win over Paire. MP United now has a 6-1-1 record to maintain its distance against Matansa (5-0-2) and TanHoldings (4-2-1).

Matansa 7, Kanoa 1

Matansa also earned an easy

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama, right, dribbles past Alpha Males' Antonio Borja during their semis game in the men's division of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Ol'Aces will represent the CNMI to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu.

sian Games in Pohnpei.

The Ol'Aces of the quartet of Barcinas, Basa, Lizama, and Schmidt topped the 3x3 the national qualifying tournament organized by the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation.

The CNMI weightlifters, on the other hand, collected 12 medals in Pohnpei with Barnes winning gold and Apelo and Santos getting silvers in their respective weight divisions.

GERMANCE

From Page 28

ruled the pitching department with a 5.41 ERA, followed by previous leader Leo Bobai of Momma Charu (5.75), Kinatara (6.46), John Cepeda of the S.A. Masters (7.19), and Ray Villagomez of Peleliu (7.44).

Brotherhood's John Diaz finished sixth with 7.94, while Lucian George of Karui was seventh with 8.80, followed by Tom Camacho (9.15) of Sufa and Asahi's Tosh Beltran (9.65). Igsaiar was 10th with 11.52.

Iskawa was the strikeout king with 30, besting Bobai's 29, and the 28 of Diaz.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	2	1	.667	—
Boston	2	2	.500	½
Brooklyn	2	2	.500	½
Philadelphia	1	3	.250	1½
New York	0	3	.000	2

Southeast Division

Washington	3	0	1.000	—
Orlando	3	1	.750	½
Miami	2	1	.667	1
Charlotte	1	2	.333	2
Atlanta	1	3	.250	2½

Central Division

Cleveland	3	1	.750	—
Milwaukee	3	1	.750	—
Indiana	2	2	.500	1
Detroit	2	2	.500	1
Chicago	0	3	.000	2½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	3	0	1.000	—
San Antonio	3	0	1.000	—
Houston	3	1	.750	½
New Orleans	1	3	.250	2½
Dallas	0	4	.000	3½

Northwest Division

Portland	3	1	.750	—
Minnesota	2	2	.500	1
Utah	2	2	.500	1
Denver	1	2	.333	1½
Oklahoma City	1	2	.333	1½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	3	0	1.000	—
Golden State	2	2	.500	1½
L.A. Lakers	1	2	.333	2
Phoenix	1	3	.250	2½
Sacramento	1	3	.250	2½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AGAPE

From Page 28

12 points each. Bao contributed 7, while Liang tallied 2.

While Agape had a decent shooting percentage from the foul line, GCA had a woeful 0-for-6 clip from the stripe. The Eagles were also held to a field goal—courtesy of Seth Balakrishna's triple—failing to end their finals drought and spoil the Torchbearers-Knights title showdown. The last time GCA made it to the championship game was during the 2012-2013 season, which it won after dominating Mt. Carmel, 39-25 for the Eagles' back-to-back championships.

With GCA out of the finals, it's now Agape's turn to earn two straight titles in the middle school division. The Torchbear-

ers took last season's championship after outclassing Mt. Carmel, 33-19. The Knights, on the other hand, prevailed in their first title match during the 2015-2016 season, 40-38.

This season, the Torchbearers and Knights are even, too with the latter winning their meeting in the first round, 31-16, and the former ruling their second faceoff, 35-30.

The Agape-Mt. Camel third consecutive finals meeting will be played today at 4:30pm after the girls title match between the Lady Knights and Seventh Day Adventist at 3:30pm.

ACS 34 — Xu 12, Zheng 12, Bao 7, Liang 2, Zhao 1.

GCA 31 — Lee 10, Kil 6, Ryu 6, Balakrishna 6, Si 3.

Scoring by quarters: 11-10, 15-16, 25-28, 34-31.

PIC Saipan 50K Bike For Life

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Jess Conde waves to the cheering crowd as he makes his final approach to the finish line of last Saturday's PIC Bike For Life.



Meihua Rengiil celebrates after completing the 50-kilometer course.



Nomer Mangalinao competes in the MTB division.



From left, TanHoldings employees Edong Echavez, Ricky Millo, Edgar Garcia, and Ronald Alcantara gather for a photo after finishing the race.



Participants of the PIC Bike For Life cool down after the long ride.



Cyclists pose for a group photo after the awards ceremony.



Some of the close to 100 cyclists who joined the race pose for a photo.



A group of cyclists enjoys a light moment after completing the 50-kilometer ride from the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's south parking lot to Banzai Cliff and back.

Kershaw,
Dodgers beat
Astros in hot
opener

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Saipan Tribune Sports



LeBron scores
34 as point
guard, leads
Cavs over Bulls

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28 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Agape vs MCS Part 3

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

For the third straight season, Agape Christian School and Mt. Carmel School will dispute the boys middle school championship in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings FC's Luis Claridades, left, and Kanoa FC's Jaydee Jose battle for the ball during their boys U14 division game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

3-way title race in boys U14

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three teams are in for an interesting battle for the championship in the boys U14 division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League.

MP United Football Club is in the lead with its 4-2-0 win-draw-loss record and 14 points, but not far behind are Matansa FC and Shirley's FC, which hold similar 4-1-1 marks.

MP United took the No. 1 spot from two-week leader Matansa after a 3-2 win last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field,



while Shirley's also prevailed in its Week 6 game, downing Paire FC, 5-3.

Matansa, MP United, and Shirley's all left in the double-round robin competition and each match in the final half of the season is crucial in determining the three teams' chances for the division title.

Rohan Basnet shoved MP United in front after scoring the winning goal against Matansa in the 59th minute. Rintaro Miyawaki posted the two other goals for MP United, making his

See U14 on Page 26



Agape arranged a finals rematch against Mt. Carmel after nosing out Grace Christian Academy, 34-31, in the second semis game last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Earlier in the first Final Four match, the Knights eased past Saipan International School, 41-18, to move ahead to the championship game.

The victory in the second semis tiff was a come-from-behind one for Agape, as it was down by 3 points entering the fourth canto, 25-28. Sam Ryu made 6 of GCA's 12 points in the third period, while Edward Kil had a pair of field goals to extend their team's lead after holding a shaky 16-15 advantage at the half. However, the Eagles failed to keep the driver's seat in the playoff quarter, allowing Agape to steal the victory.

David Zheng led the Torch-bearers fightback in the final canto after making two field goals and a split free throw. Silas Xu also knocked in crucial charities in the homestretch going 2-for-3, while Andrew Zhao and Bobby Bao added one free throw apiece. Su and Zhang top-scored for the Todd Pane-coached Agape, firing

See AGAPE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Agape Christian School's Arthur Liang, center, beats Grace Christian Academy's Seth Balakrishna, left, and B. Y. Lee in this rebound play during the second quarter of their semis game in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Germance leads Belau individual winners

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Taylor Germance topped three of the individual awards at stake in the 2017 Belau Men's Masters Softball League, which ended the regular season early this month.

The league is now in the play-off round with top seeds Peleliu, Brotherhood, and Momma Charu marching on to the semifinals after lopsided wins against separate opponents.

The Karui slugger had the most runs scored with 34 to beat the 32 each made by Brotherhood teammates Bill Camacho and Joe Lizama, and Lefty Shiro, who topped the doubles with 12 followed by the 10 and 9 apiece by Tito Laniyo and George David.

Germance, who placed fifth in the batting leaders after ending the season with a .618 average or having 34 hits in 55



JON PEREZ

Ross Kintaro, seen here working the mound for Peleliu, was the third best pitcher in the Belau league with a 6.46 ERA.

times at bat, also had the most home runs with 19 against Jojo Attao's 18. Peleliu teammates Dominic Remeliik and Mabel Ngirngemelas, and Payton Sakuma of Momma Charu had 12 each.

Germance added the most RBIs (56) title to his individual awards collection, while Attao ended up at second with 53 and Sakuma was third with 36.

Attao was the league's top batter with an .800 average after going 40-for-50, while Camacho and Lizama finished second and third with .673 and .649, respectively. Karui's Darwin Masaharu (.625) came in at fourth. Peleliu's Ross Kintaro (.611), Jack D. Diaz (.604), Sakuma (.587), S.A. Masters' Jude Dickinson (.575), and Karui's Steve Igisaia (.571) completed the Top 10 batting leaders.

Joe Celis of the Papa Bears

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